Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-040
Thursday
2 March 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-040 *2 March 1989*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 March Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Lebanon Committee To Meet 17-18 Mar *[KUNA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: 5 Parties Invited to Preparatory Meeting *[WAKH]* 3
'Arafat Returns to Tunis From Marrakech *[Tunis Radio]* 3
PLO Official on Syrian-Soviet Coordination *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 28 Feb]* 3
Qaddumi on Palestinian State, 'Uprising' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Feb]* 4
Fatah Leader Rebuts U.S. Report on Terrorism *[London AL-MAJALLAH 1-7 Mar]* 6
Hamas Organization Issues 'Text' of Call No 36 *[Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL'AMM 26 Feb]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Civil Aviation Agreement Reached With Libya *[AL-AKHBAR 28 Feb]* 9
Al-Majid Interviewed on Regional Cooperation *[London AL-HAWADITH 24 Feb]* 9
Ghali on Peace Conference, Arab Summit, Syria *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 26 Feb]* 10
Sidqi Defends Wafd Leader, Interior Minister *[AL-WAFD 27 Feb]* 10
Condemns 'Assault' on Bakr *[AL-AHRAM 27 Feb]* 11
People's Assembly Approves Election Bill *[Cairo Radio]* 11
Iraq's 'Aziz Makes Brief Stopover, Departs *[MENA]* 11
DPRK Envoy Arrives in Cairo With Message *[MENA]* 12
Departs 2 Mar *[MENA]* 12
Sofaer Departs for London After Tabah Ceremony *[MENA]* 12
Crude Oil Prices Increased Effective 1 Mar *[MENA]* 12
Loan Agreement Signed With Arab Fund 1 Mar *[MENA]* 12
Central Bank Policies on Investment Reviewed *[Cairo Radio]* 13
MENA: AL-AHRAM Welcomes Bush Statements 13

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi To Propose Unity Among Arab Groups *[Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' 2 Mar]* 13
Agenda of General People's Congress 15th Session *[Tripoli TV]* 13
DPRK's Kim Il-song Congratulates Al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 15
Transportation Agreement Signed With Tunisia *[Tripoli Radio]* 15

Morocco

'Sources' Clarify Hassan-Polisario Contacts *[MAP]* 15
'Arafat Comments on Talks With Hassan, Departs *[MAP]* 15
Filali Briefs Legislature on Maghreb Treaty *[MAP]* 16

Sudan

Further on Continuing Government-Army Crisis 17
Spokesman Denies Army Takeover *[Khartoum Radio]* 17

Army Issues Statement on Memo *[Khartoum Radio]* 17
MENA on 'Worsened' Crisis 17
Possible Resignation Affirmed *[MENA]* 18
Military Coup Rumors 'Refuted' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Mar]* 18
Military Source Rules Out Coup *[WAKH]* 19
State Council Meets With Political Party Leaders *[Khartoum Radio]* 19
Meeting To Resume 2 Mar *[Omdurman Radio]* 19
Ministry Denies Seeking Egyptian Military Aid *[Khartoum Radio]* 19
SPLA Claims Capture of Farajok Garrison *[Radio SPLA]* 19
SPLA Regrets Civilian Deaths in Juba *[Radio SPLA]* 20
Councillor Says Dispute With Kenya 'Settled' *[Omdurman Radio]* 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Heir Apparent Returns from Doha Visit 28 Feb *[WAKH]* 21
New Zealand Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit *[WAKH]* 21
Holds Talks With Amir *[WAKH]* 21

Kuwait

Crown Prince Welcomes ACC, Urges Arab Summit *[Amman JORDAN TIMES 28 Feb]* 21
Foreign Minister Confers With PDRY Counterpart *[KUNA]* 22
PDRY's Al-Dali Departs *[KUNA]* 22
Fund To Loan 6 Million Kuwaiti Dinars to Syria *[AL-QABAS 28 Feb]* 22
Amir on Armed Forces Role in 'Delicate Times' *[ARAB TIMES 27 Feb]* 22
'Secret' Petitions Urge Restoration of Parliament *[AFP]* 22

Oman

Diplomatic Relations Established With Ghana *[Muscat Radio]* 23

PDRY

YAR's Al-'Arashi Arrives, Makes Statement *[Sanaa Radio]* 23
Holds Talks With Nu'man *[Sanaa Radio]* 23
Delivers Message to Al-'Attas *[Aden Radio]* 23
Joint USSR Oil Development Projects Reviewed *[Aden Radio]* 24
Party Cooperation Agreement Signed With Bulgaria *[Aden Radio]* 24

Saudi Arabia

AL-SAFIR Report on Rift With Egypt Denied *[SPA]* 24
'Arafat Arrives in Abu Dhabi, Makes Statement *[WAKH]* 24
Meets With President Zayid *[WAKH]* 24
Meets With Foreign Minister *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 25
Egypt's Al-Baz Makes Statement, Departs 28 Feb *[WAKH]* 25
PDRY Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit *[WAKH]* 26

Yemen Arab Republic

President Approves Law Ratifying ACC Agreement *[Sanaa Radio]* 26
Al-Asbahi Leaves for Baghdad Party Talks *[Sanaa Radio]* 26
Agriculture Minister Signs Accord With Somalia *[Sanaa Radio]* 26

IRAQ

Iran Said To Break Working Group Agreement *[INA]* 27
'Source' Denies Report of Aid to Sudan *[INA]* 27
Political 'Fugitives' Receive Amnesty 1 Mar *[INA]* 27
UN Observers Chief Arrives in Baghdad 1 Mar *[INA]* 27
Damaged Ships Towed Away From Shatt al-'Arab *[INA]* 27

ISRAEL

IDF Kills 4 'Terrorists' in South Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Attack Under PLO 'Leadership' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Walker, Waldegrave Remarks Cited on PLO Attacks *[Jerusalem International]* 28
Waldegrave Notes 'Changes' in PLO Attitude *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
Bar Chairman: Popular Army Holding Soldier *[Jerusalem International]* 29
Gorbachev To Visit Damascus in 'Next Few Weeks' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Mar]* 29
Arens-Shevardnadze Meeting Examined *[Jerusalem International]* 30
Possibility of Outlawing Islamic Movement Viewed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Islamic Leader on 'Success' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Alleged Czechoslovak Spy Met With Israelis *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Mar]* 31
Czechoslovak Theater Troupe Arrives for Tour *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Hungarian Transport Minister Arrives on Visit *[THE JERUSALEM POST 1 Mar]* 32
Air Traffic Agreement Signed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Nicaraguan Spokesman on Restoration of Ties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Danish Agriculture Minister, Delegation Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Shomron Testimony Details 'Legality' of Beatings *[HA'ARETZ 2 Mar]* 32
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 33
Arabs Attempt Abduction *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
Soldier Wounded by Stone *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
Gaza Strip Arab Killed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Civil Administration Closes Office, Opens Others *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Arab Media 'Jumped at' State Department Report *[Jerusalem International]* 33
Muslim Brotherhood Reportedly Meets in Jordan *[Jerusalem International]* 34
Radio Criticizes King Husayn's CNN Interview *[Jerusalem International]* 34
AL-FAJR Comments on Khalaf Peace Statement *[24 Feb]* 35
U.S. Veto in UN, Support for Israel Criticized *[AL-QUDS 19 Feb]* 35
U.S. Urged To Alter 'Biased' Israeli Policy *[AL-SHA'B 24 Feb]* 36
Soviet Role in Peace Efforts Examined *[AL-NAHAR 15 Feb]* 36
Rabin Election Plans Aim To Split Palestinians *[AL-NAHAR 19 Feb]* 37
Rabin's Plans Denounced *[AL-SHA'B 17 Feb]* 38
72 AIDS Cases Diagnosed; 47 Deaths Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38

JORDAN

King Husayn Returns From Hirohito Funeral 1 Mar *[Amman Radio]* 39
Socialist International Officials Arrive 28 Feb *[Amman Radio]* 39
Meet Al-Qasim, Al-Rifa'i *[Amman Radio]* 39
Prices of 'Basic Commodities' To Be Maintained *[Amman Radio]* 39

LEBANON

Muslims To Meet in Damascus, Christians in Amman *[Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' 2 Mar]* 40
Tawhid Leader on Rushdie Affair, Arab 'Silence' *[IRNA]* 40
Lebanese Forces Said To Begin Evacuating Beirut *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Source Denies Withdrawals *[VOL]* 41
More on Withdrawal of Forces *[Voice of National Resistance]* 41
UN Envoy To Lodge Protest Against Israel *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Acting Army Commander on Expected Israeli Attack *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Amal, Fatah Officials Exchange Accusations *[RFL]* 41
Syrians Reportedly Raid Homes, Arrest Sunnis *[RFL]* 41
Group Claims Attack on Palestinian Office *[RFL]* 41
Clashes Reported Between SLA, Liberation Army *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Attacks on Lahd Positions Reported in South *[Beirut Radio]* 42
DFLP Claims Operation in Northern Israel *[Voice of the People]* 42
Israeli Artillery Bombards Areas in South *[RFL]* 42
Israeli Aircraft Fly Over Sidon, Iqlim al-Kharrub *[VOL]* 42

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Receives Message From Iran's Velayati *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Mufti Condemns Rushdie's 'Money-seeking' Book *[SANA]* 43
Socialist International Officials Arrive 1 Mar *[Damascus Radio]* 43
AL-THAWRAH Cited on Israeli Raid in Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 43

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

'Huge Avalanches' Close Salang Highway *[Kabul Radio]* 44
Highway Reopens 2 Mar *[Kabul Radio]* 44
Kabul Radio on Military Situation 28 Feb-1 Mar 44
109 Rebels Killed in Nangarhar *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Pakistan Claims Soviet Troops Still in Vakhan *[AFP]* 45
Ministers Issue State of Emergency Resolutions *[Kabul Radio]* 46
Interim Government, Shi'ites To Hold Talks *[Islamabad Radio]* 47
'Ulema Statement Urges Shi'ite-Sunni Unity *[IRNA]* 48
'Abdul Haq Details Strategy To Take Kabul *[Paris LE FIGARO 28 Feb]* 48
Najibullah Sends Messages to PLO, Mexico, SFRY *[BAKHTAR]* 49
Cables YAR, Sudan, Argentina *[BAKHTAR]* 50
Keshtmand Chairs Council of Ministers Session *[Kabul Radio]* 50
Council of 'Ulema Declaration Condemns Shura *[BAKHTAR]* 50

Bangladesh

Armed Police Guard British Council Library *[AFP]* 50
President Urges More Japanese Financial Support *[Tokyo KYODO]* 51
Japan To Provide 5 Billion Yen *[Tokyo KYODO]* 51
Vietnamese Delegation Meets Prime Minister 27 Feb *[Dhaka International]* 51
Police Seize Heroin, Arrest Six for Smuggling *[AFP]* 52

India

Minister Reviews U.S. Policy on Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 52
PATRIOT Ridicules U.S. View of Human Rights *[15 Feb]* 52
Home Minister Statement on Terrorism, Opposition *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Opposition Agrees To End Boycott of Parliament *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Agreement With GDR on Third Country Ventures *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Chinese Communist Party Delegation Meets Gandhi *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Minutes Signed on Increasing Trade With Bulgaria *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Consequences of Pakistani Nuclear Program Noted *[PATRIOT 10 Feb]* 54

Iran

Majlis Speaker Says Enemies Waging 'Cultural' War *[IRNA]* 55
Jannati Says UK 'Meddling in Divine Justice' *[IRNA]* 55
Says Islam 'Immune' *[Tehran Radio]* 56
UK Ministry's Request for Talks Rejected *[IRNA]* 56
UK Looks to Moscow for Help in Rushdie Affair *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Thatcher on Possible Prosecution of Rushdie *[IRNA]* 57
Mother of Prisoner in UK Rejects Cooper Trade *[IRNA]* 58
Diplomatic Break With Britain Called 'Unique' *[IRNA]* 58
Paper Says UK 'Reluctant' To Sever Ties *[IRNA]* 58
KAYHAN Cited on Break in Ties With UK *[IRNA]* 59
Ambassador to Warsaw Interviewed on Rushdie Affair
[Warsaw SZTANDAR MLODYCH 24-26 Feb] 59
Majlis Deplores India's Treatment of Muslims *[IRNA]* 60
Majlis Deputies Debate Diplomacy Issue *[RESALAT 21 Feb]* 60
RESALAT Notes Attack on Rushdie's 'Treachery' *[22 Feb]* 61
Commentary on Majlis Decision on Diplomatic Ties *[Tehran International]* 61

'Rash' Action of West Benefits USSR *[TEHRAN TIMES 21 Feb]* 62
Commentary on Anti-Rushdie Protest in France *[Tehran International]* 63
Paper Assails Austria's Position on Rushdie *[IRNA]* 63
Culture Minister Writes to UNESCO About Book *[IRNA]* 63
Ahvaz Marchers Support Khomeyni Edict on Rushdie *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Afghan Mujahidin Cleric Supports Khomeyni Decree *[IRNA]* 64
Cabinet Discusses Shevardnadze's Visit *[Tehran TV]* 64
Tehran TV Commentary 65
Paper Lauds Gorbachev's 'More Realistic' Views *[IRNA]* 65
Larijani Says Country Must 'Export' Islam *[IRNA]* 66
Mir Salim Comments on Trip to Tokyo *[Tehran TV]* 66
Labor Minister Hospitalized After Heart Attack *[IRNA]* 66
Majlis Speaker Inaugurates Ammunition Factory *[Tehran Radio]* 66
50 Drug Smugglers Hanged in Tehran, Other Cities *[IRNA]* 67
Revolution Guards Arrest Drug Traffickers *[Tehran Radio]* 67
Navy Conducts Maneuvers in Indian Ocean *[IRNA]* 67
Tehran Turkish Radio Details Islamic 'Duties' 67
Dangers of Religious Free-Thinking Assailed *[PASDAR-E ESLAM Jan-Feb 89]* 68
TV, FM Transmitters Inaugurated in Kalat *[Tehran Radio]* 72

Maldives

Jameel Thanks Japanese Counterpart for Assistance *[Tokyo KYODO]* 72

Pakistan

NEWSWEEK Issues on Rushdie Book Seized *[Islamabad Radio]* 73
Spokesman Refutes Allegation on Government Media *[Islamabad Radio]* 73
Ishaq Khan Confers Award on PRC General *[Islamabad Radio]* 73
Karachi Shipyard Begins Work on Ship for PRC *[Islamabad Radio]* 73
PRC To Assist in Manufacturing Tractors *[Islamabad Radio]* 73
Radio, TV Program Protocol Signed With USSR *[Islamabad International]* 73
Editorial Commends Successful Missile Tests *[DAWN 13 Feb]* 73

Sri Lanka

10 People Killed in Separate Incidents 22 Feb *[LANKAPUVATH]* 74
'Subversives' Kill Policeman, Sabotage Rail Tracks *[LANKAPUVATH]* 75
Tamil Designated Official Language in Northeast *[Delhi Radio]* 75

2 March Middle East and South Asia Review

LD0203140389 [Editorial Report]

Sudan

Political Situation—A government spokesman denied foreign reports of a coup by the Armed Forces and affirmed that the government "is carrying out its duties as usual," Khartoum National Unity radio reported. He added that the Armed Forces had not given the government a "deadline of noon 28 February" to meet the demands of the "memorandum" since the prime minister's "positive reply" in his speech to parliament ended the link between the Army's demand for political action within 1 week and a takeover.

The Armed Forces have declared a state of "maximum alert" until the crisis in the country is resolved, according to a military source cited by MENA. The source added the the military are monitoring movements at approaches to the capital as a "security measure in the current circumstances."

Southern Military Situation—SPLA forces captured Farajok in Eastern Equatoria Province 1 March following their ultimatum to the garrison to either join the SPLA or evacuate the town, the clandestine SPLA radio reported. The garrison at Nimule has been given a similar ultimatum with a 48-hour deadline, the radio added.

Afghanistan

"Fierce" fighting between the mujahidin and Afghan Army troops is going on in "at least six provinces" and a transport aircraft from Qandahar has been shot down, Islamabad radio reported. More than 40 "extremists" were killed and a large quantity of arms and ammunition seized in Qandahar and other provinces in recent operations by the security forces, according to Kabul radio.

Lebanon

LF Begins Evacuation—The Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) began to pull their troops out of Beirut 28 February, according to military sources cited by Beirut radio. The LF reached agreement with the Army Command to evacuate Beirut "by the end of next week," the radio noted.

Clashes in the South—There were "violent" clashes between the "Popular Liberation Army" and the "agent Lahd's" militia along the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir line, according to security sources cited by Beirut radio. The SLA and Israeli forces continued to bombard Palestinian positions along the 'Ayn al-Mir, Marah al-Ahbas, Lib'a line "in retaliation for the DFLP's Saydun operation," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Israel

Arab League Committee To Meet—The Arab League Committee on Lebanon is to hold its third session in Kuwait 17-18 March, KUNA reported.

Territories—One Arab was killed by IDF gunfire when he tried to stab an Israeli soldier during arrests in Gaza, Jerusalem radio reported.

The civil administration in "Judaea and Samaria" is to close its office in Salfit in order to "improve" services in the area south of Tulkarm, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that other civil administration offices have been opened recently in villages in the area.

Civil Aviation Agreement—An air traffic agreement with Hungary has been signed allowing El Al to land in Budapest and the Hungarian airline to land at Ben-Gurion Airport, according to Jerusalem radio. The agreement also allows El Al to land at other locations in East Europe along the route to Budapest.

PLO Affairs

The PLO has invited Syria to attend a preparatory meeting for the international peace conference, according to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat cited by WAKH. 'Arafat asserted that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told Egyptian officials of Syria's consent to "full participation" in the meeting during his recent visit to Cairo.

Egypt

An agreement with Libya to allow the mutual use of Egyptian and Libyan airspace for civilian aircraft was reached 27 February, according to Cairo's AL-AKHBAR newspaper citing the president of Egypt Air.

Iraq

Military Aid Denial—A British newspaper report that Iraq has offered Sudan tanks seized from the Iranians in order to "expand its influence" was described as "baseless" by an Iraqi source cited by INA.

Amnesty for Fugitives—The Revolution Command Council issued a general amnesty for all Iraqi political fugitives living abroad, INA reported. The amnesty does not apply to "traitor" Jalal al-Tabani or to "agents of the Iranian regime," the report added.

Iraq-Iran Negotiations

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz informed the UN Security Council that Iran "broke" an agreement reached with the UN observer group to set up a joint military committee and refused to attend the 22 February meeting of the committee, INA reported.

Iran

The break in relations with Britain could have "economic side effects" which must be minimized, according to ETTELA'AT daily cited by IRNA. The paper reminded readers that Western governments have grown "strong roots" in Iran and that removing the Western presence would not remove their influence on inflation and other economic problems.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI daily cited by IRNA claimed that Britain is "reluctant" to sever relations with Iran and that it is "prepared to adopt a proper stand". The agency said a British official "offered to negotiate" with Tehran concerning the Salman Rushdie book.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Lebanon Committee To Meet 17-18 Mar

LD0103144189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1239 GMT 1 Mar 89

[By Salih Nazzal]

[Text] Kuwait, March 1 (KUNA)—The Arab League committee of six assigned to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the Lebanese crisis would hold the third stage of its works in Kuwait March 17-18, Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad declared Wednesday.

Shaykh Sabah, committee chairman, told reporters that during this third phase, the committee would talk to 30 Lebanese political leaders and influential figures.

Commenting on the forthcoming contacts, Shaykh Sabah expressed optimism that the committee, grouping the foreign ministers of Kuwait, UAE, Sudan, Jordan, Algeria and Tunisia, would succeed in restoring peace and stability to Lebanon.

"Our optimism stems from the optimism of the Lebanese themselves. Their cooperation and preparedness has been the mainstay of committee success," Kuwait's [word indistinct] went on.

Shaykh Sabah expressed hope "that the committee would have the opportunity to meet in Beirut, and that Beirut would open its arms to all Arabs."

The committee has held two rounds of talks. The first, held in Tunis last January, was with heads of the rival governments in Lebanon, and the second involved Christian and Muslim religious leaders and was held in Kuwait February 20-23.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: 5 Parties Invited to Preparatory Meeting

JN0103200389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1855 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Mar (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat says the PLO has sent invitations for a five-party meeting to be convened in 2 to 3 weeks to coordinate positions on a preparatory committee to lay the goundwork for the international Mideast peace conference. The proposed meeting would bring together representatives of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine.

In a statement to WAM, 'Arafat said USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze communicated to Egyptian officials when he was in Cairo last week President Hafiz al-Asad's consent to Syria's full participation in the committee's work.

The venue of the meeting has not been determined yet, but it may be held in Damascus, Cairo, Amman, or Tunis, the PLO chief said.

Asked whether he expects the international conference to be held this year, 'Arafat noted that George Bush has stressed the need for a speedy political Mideast settlement, but only after the U.S. Administration has completed relevant studies. The PLO leader said there has not been a shift in American policies.

On the prospects of the PLO-U.S. dialogue, the Palestinian leader said we are waiting to see what President Bush does.

'Arafat Returns to Tunis From Marrakech

LD2802205589 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat returned to Tunis from Marrakech after an official visit to Morocco where he was received by King Hassan II.

PLO Official on Syrian-Soviet Coordination

JN0103175189 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 28 Feb 89 p 16

[By Raja Talab]

[Text] Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member, has said that, following Damascus' agreement in principle to a five-party meeting of frontline states, Syria and the USSR are to coordinate their moves to fix a date and venue for the meeting.

In a statement to AL-WATAN, Al-Najjab said that during his recent visits to Damascus, Amman, and Cairo, USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze secured approval of all of the parties to speed up the meeting of the five countries. These are Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Palestine. Al-Najjab said that during his Damascus visit Shevardnadze won the agreement of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to begin preparing the meeting and that the Soviet minister communicated the Syrian approval to the PLO and Jordan.

The PLO expressed to Shevardnadze its welcome of the Syrian agreement and an interest in the speedy convening of the meeting in Amman, Cairo, or Damascus. The PLO's wish to see the meeting held soon was also conveyed to Jordan, Al-Najjab added.

He stressed that the Soviets will persist in their efforts to prepare the meeting, particulary with the Syrians, who are expected to make their stand on the venue and date known shortly. The PLO told Shevardnadze it favors preparatory meetings with Syria to normalize their relations on the bases of the PNC resolutions, the Palestinian peace initiative, and the Arab summit resolutions, especially those made at the Algiers summit conference, the Palestinian official said.

Shevardnadze stressed the importance of such a move during his meeting with the Palestinian leadership in Cairo, pointing out that he will pursue his efforts to promote a Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation as such a development would help evolve a unified position by the five Arab states concerned with the international conference, Al-Najjab added.

The Palestinian leadership thinks the coming stage calls for political action on the Arab and international fronts to give an impetus to the Palestinian and Soviet initiatives and create circumstances favoring the convening of the international conference, he said.

Al-Najjab outlined this action as follows:

1. Intensified action by the Arab League-affiliated seven-man committee on the intifadah [uprising] and by the five-party meeting on the international conference, as well as coordination between the two.

2. Intensified Arab action on the American scene in order to bring about a developed U.S. position favoring the international conference and to lift Washington's political cover for Israeli crimes.

3. Working on the European arena in order to have Europe pressure Israel to accept the international conference.

Qaddumi on Palestinian State, 'Uprising'

PM0103151789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Feb 89 p 3

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-Lutf, by Hasin al-Bunyan in Riyadh; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Bunyan] Do you believe that the U.S.-PLO dialogue, about which we have heard nothing new, will lead to U.S. recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and a state on their own national soil?

[Qaddumi] The dialogue has not stopped, and contacts are continuing between the Palestinian and U.S. embassies in Tunis. We believe that this dialogue and these contacts are bound to lead to U.S. recognition of the right to self-determination and recognition of the need for an international conference so that preparations could be made for such a conference, because it is through such a mechanism that a just settlement of the Middle East crisis can be achieved. Although the U.S. Administration is preoccupied with some internal issues such as the budget deficit and other matters, we do hope that these contacts will produce what may be considered an improvement in the U.S. position on the Palestinian and Middle East questions.

[Al-Bunyan] Do you expect a U.S. policy change on the Middle East, and particularly on the Palestinian question, under President Bush's administration?

[Qaddumi] Speaking of U.S. policy, it is a pro-Israel policy, and we should not delude ourselves into thinking that it is going to change overnight. However, the continuation of the intifadah [uprising] will face the U.S. Administration with new facts that must be recognized. That will ultimately necessitate a change in U.S. attitude—that is, if the United States is really interested in promoting a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

[Al-Bunyan] Does the PLO's condemnation of terrorism and its decision not to carry out external operations against Israel mean that if such operations were carried out you would point an accusing finger at the dissident organizations and elements that have broken away from the PLO?

[Qaddumi] We in the PLO condemn terrorism. That is a decision we made years ago. The PLO cannot change its policy on international terrorism. We condemn international terrorism, whereas Israel carries out state terrorism. We are above retaliation against such terrorism at the international level. The international community is beginning to sympathize with us and to condemn that Israeli conduct both externally and internally. We are taking many precautions to prevent Israel from carrying out such acts of terrorism against Palestinian cadres, which are an essential part of Israel's policy against the PLO. However, the intifadah will continue, and our armed action is continuing. In other words, if Israel carries out operations against our camps and people in Lebanon, we will retaliate in the same way.

Our struggle against Israel in the occupied territory continues, and we will never give it up, and we are not prepared to condemn any Palestinian organization. The PLO policy is one of continued struggle in the occupied territory via the stone-throwing method devised by our people as a way of self-defense against and resistance to Israel's instruments of repression.

[Al-Bunyan] Do you expect the dissidents to carry out operations that would affect the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, and, if so, what would your position be?

[Qaddumi] Such operations are to be expected, but no leadership, revolutionary movement, or state can control its people completely, otherwise there would be no prisons and no laws and regulations against activities that undermine the freedom of the individual and society. Some groups or individuals might carry out such operations, but the PLO will never mount such operations.

[Al-Bunyan] What did Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] mean when he said, at the time of the Pan Am crash, that he was prepared to cooperate with U.S. authorities to

expose those who were behind the blowing up of the plane. Was he referring to dissidents who have broken away from the PLO, or what?

[Qaddumi] Brother Abu 'Ammar has never cooperated with the United States, because he knows that it is aligned with Israel. We cannot possibly cooperate with a state that supports Israel, but if an international organization sought the help of similar organizations or groups on a particular matter, then the PLO would willingly supply whatever information it may have. In other words, we will not cooperate with the United States, because it is aligned with Israel.

[Al-Bunyan] Not even if the United States submitted an official request to the PLO?

[Qaddumi] Not even if that happened, because the reality of the situation is that the United States would never submit an official request to the PLO. It is a superpower and has numerous ways of finding out who carried out the operation and who was behind it. It does not, in my view, need to submit an official request to the PLO. We are talking about cooperation here as if our relations with the United States have reached the level of friendship, but that is not the case. The United State is still partial toward Israel.

[Al-Bunyan] The Soviet Union is currently making efforts with regard to the parties to the Middle East conflict, as Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's tour indicates. How do you assess this move? Do you think the Soviet Union is trying to propose a peace initiative in the region in isolation from the Americans? Do you see U.S.-Soviet competition in the region as an obstacle to the establishment of peace in the region?

[Qaddumi] We fully appreciate the efforts of our friend the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union supports the Palestinian people's national rights. That is why we welcome such efforts, but I do not believe that there is rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States at this stage of international relaxation. The two superpowers have taken major steps in that direction, and I believe that the efforts of the two superpowers meet on the same road, which is one of a quest for peace.

[Al-Bunyan] How do you view the current international circumstances? Do they favor peace, and do you believe that an international conference will be held in the near future?

[Qaddumi] The current efforts serve peace in one way or another, but more favorable circumstances are needed for the success of these efforts to the point of convening an international conference. I do not believe that an international conference will be held this year, because the other parties, such as Israel and the United States, are still procrastinating and trying to maneuver and are still obstructing the peace process in the region. Israeli practices against our people are continuing. That would never enhance the peace efforts.

On the contrary, it hampers peace, which means Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It would be a positive step in the interest of the peace process if the United States were to put pressure on Israel, but the United States is saying that it would never put pressure on Israel. The U.S. use of its veto at the Security Council does not serve peace, it impedes peace. Support for the UN secretary general's efforts by any state, particularly the superpowers, would help the peace process, but so far we see no indication that the United States is seriously pressing in that direction.

[Al-Bunyan] Do you believe that Israel is now closer to accepting the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank?

[Qaddumi] Our optimism cannot possibly reach the point of thinking that Israel would recognize a Palestinian state, but whether Israel likes it or not, there will be a Palestinian state. We said in the independence document that we support the principle of two states on the basis of the 1947 partition resolution.

We know that the Israeli Government and those with a colonialist-imperialist mentality in Israel are still intransigent and—like Sharon, for example—they even want to evict the Palestinian people. Plans exist there for deportation, murder, and persecution. Israel must be forced, by the conscious violence of our people in the occupied territory and the continuation of this violence, to withdraw its forces completely from the occupied Palestinian territory.

[Al-Bunyan] Abu 'Ammar has been quoted as telling Israeli journalists in Cairo that he is prepared to visit Jerusalem in return for Israeli recognition of a Palestinian state. Is that true?

[Qaddumi] I do not imagine that to be true. Jerusalem is a Palestinian Arab city that we will not only visit but return to when the Israeli occupation ends.

[Al-Bunyan] Are there any signs of a relaxation in Palestinian-Syrian relations?

[Qaddumi] We have been to great lengths in the past to bring about a relaxation in these relations, and we even went to Damascus and held talks with our Syrian brothers, but these relations have suffered a new setback. We wish there could be some positive developments in Palestinian-Syrian relations but, regrettably, there is little hope of that.

[Al-Bunyan] What is this new setback in your relations with Syria?

[Qaddumi] The fact that after we went to Damascus the Palestinian camps in Lebanon were shelled again.

[Al-Bunyan] Do both sides have preconditions for the restoration of normal relations?

[Qaddumi] Neither side should have preconditions. Normal relations between brothers are imperative. We believe that we should particularly have relations with Syria because it is a confrontation state. We have not and do not set any conditions for the restoration of normal relations.

[Al-Bunyan] But, assuming relations are restored with Syria, what would the dissidents' position be?

[Qaddumi] We would discuss this matter when the time comes, if relations are restored.

[Al-Bunyan] When will a Palestinian provisional government be announced, and what shape will it take?

[Qaddumi] According to the PNC resolution, the PLO Executive Committee shoulders the responsibilities and tasks of a provisional government. When we are close to convening an international conference, we could discuss this matter and consider forming a Palestinian provisional government, but so far there is no indication that an international conference will be held this year.

[Al-Bunyan] Do you not believe that the PLO has given the international community something, particularly in this recent period, without getting anything in return?

[Qaddumi] Palestinian flexibility defies all claims that the PLO is silent and passive about the peace process. Through the peace initiatives reflected in the PNC resolutions and brother Abu 'Ammar's speech at the UN General Assembly in Geneva, we have proved and provided clear evidence to the world that the Palestinian people are ready for a peace based on justice. The result is that all the claims made by Israeli officials have been proved wrong, and it has been established categorically that Israel is against peace and that only the United States supports Israel, because the resolution on an international conference was supported by 138 states and opposed only by the United States and Israel.

Establishment of the Palestinian state was supported by 104 votes and opposed only by the United States and Israel, the 2 states which oppose and hinder the peace process. We have indeed made political initiatives to prove to the world that the Palestinian people are ready for peace—and from a position of strength with the continuation of the intifadah. Continuation of the intifadah is necessary, and it will not stop before we obtain the Palestinian territory, God willing. As a result of our long and bitter experience, we are aware of Israeli deception, lies, maneuvers, and the definite desire to perpetuate the occupation of Palestinian territory and destroy all the world's and the international community's peace efforts.

Fatah Leader Rebuts U.S. Report on Terrorism

PM0203111389 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 1-7 Mar 89 p 22

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, in connection with a U.S. Defense Department report on terrorist groups, by Salih Qallab; date, place not given]

[Text] [Qallab] What are the reasons that prompted the U.S. Administration to publish that book at this particular time?

[Khalaf] I believe that the book was prepared before the dialogue between the PLO and the U.S. Administration began. But publishing it at this particular time indicates that the Zionist centers of influence that have moved into the State Department with the new administration have begun to make strong moves to hamper that dialogue and prove to U.S. public opinion that the PLO is a terrorist organization. I see that the most dangerous thing about the book is that it bear the signatures of both President George Bush and former Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci.

[Qallab] What is your opinion of the information it contains?

[Khalaf] With regard to the major organizations under the PLO—that is, Fatah, the PFLP, the DFLP—I see the information on them as both distorted and incorrect. It is based on reports that the Israeli Mosad previously prepared and distributed to many Western embassies.

[Qallab] What about the other organizations? Is the information on them correct?

[Khalaf] I am talking about the organizations that fall under the PLO. They are committed to the decision we issued in 1974, which bans any external operations. The 1985 Cairo Declaration came to stress that question once again.

[Qallab] But the report talks about the operations against Israel and considers them terrorist.

[Khalaf] There is a difference between terrorism and legitimate struggle as stipulated by the UN Charter. As far as we are concerned, and while we condemn and repudiate terrorism, we adhere to our right to resist the occupation of our territory—a right that no quarter can make us give up so long as Israel has still not withdrawn from the occupied territories. And I must here point out that we do not agree to any operations aimed at civilians.

[Qallab] Even inside the occupied land?

[Khalaf] Yes. That is true, even inside the occupied land. We are for the legitimate right to struggle for the sake of liberation. I believe that in the same book President Bush made a reference to that right.

[Qallab] The report indicated that "Black September" belongs to Fatah.

[Khalaf] "Black September" is an organization that emerged following the known September incidents in 1970. It carried out some operations and then disbanded in 1974. Anyway, it had no links with Fatah at all.

[Qallab] In light of what is mentioned in the book, and regardless of the success or failure of current Palestinian orientations, do you believe that operations termed by the United States as "terrorist" will increase in the next stage?

[Khalaf] The problem is not to do with the book, because it is written by Zionist hands and signed by U.S. hands. The problem is that U.S. policy is still totally biased toward Israel, and with that bias it puts weapons into the hands of extremists of every color.

[Qallab] Is it true that the United States has blacklisted some Palestinian officials, including yourself?

[Khalaf] That is absolutely untrue. We have not been informed officially of anything of that sort. What is certain is that it is the Zionist organs seeking to hamper the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue which have turned to circulating such rumors.

[Qallab] But it is being reported that the dialogue has stopped.

[Khalaf] The dialogue has not stopped. It has only been frozen. I believe that the reason is the fact that the U.S. Administration is awaiting the arrival of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The question has to do not with the suspension of dialogue but the orientations that have begun to emerge, including the recent U.S. veto.

Hamas Organization Issues 'Text' of Call No 36

JN2802103589 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL'AMM in Arabic 26 Feb 89 p 25

["Text" of Call No 36: "The Call of Continuous Jihad to Raise the Word of God," issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine (Hamas); date not given]

[Text] Thanks be to God and mercy and blessings on Muhammad, the leader of strugglers, and his followers.

O sons of blessed Palestine: Here your steps unite with the steps of the strugglers who came before you on the path of the holy jihad to raise the banner of truth—the banner of "There is no God but God"—in all skies. Here are good tidings of victory appearing from afar, from Afghanistan, carrying hope with them. Good tidings of God's victory and hope to liberate Jerusalem and the rest of Palestine, and God is capable of doing what He wishes.

Forward to the arena of confrontation with the enemy and forward to escalating this blessed intifadah [uprising] so that God may make us achieve this, for He is capable of expelling the Zionist Jews from our land as He has driven the atheist Russians from the land of Afghanistan.

And it was due from us to aid those who believed. [Koranic verse]

Remember, O my Muslim brother, paradise, hell, and this inferior earthly life. Choose the path of paradise for yourself and remember that glory is found on the tops of mountains and that what is going on in this blessed land is a new shaping of the Islamic nation and the Islamic generation, which carries the banner of Islam.

O brothers in Islam on the path of liberation: Your movement, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), while taking pride in your rallying around its banner to expel the occupier and liberate the country and sacred places, announces the following:

First: On the external level:

1. We congratulate the people of Afghanistan and all Muslim people for the expulsion of the last Russian soldier from the land of Islam in Afghanistan. We see in this good tidings of victory in Palestine soon, God willing.

2. Unity is an Islamic need. The Islamic nation is one nation and any effort for the benefit of Islamic unity is a blessed step toward the liberation of Palestine. Forward to unity, O nation of Islam.

3. We urge our brothers in the PLO to stop dialogue with the U.S. enemy, which, as it has been proved to us, tries to maneuver and gain time for the benefit of the Zionists in order to enable them to crush our people's determination inside Palestine; to anesthetize the Arab and Muslim peoples around us and distance them from the scene of battle; and to prevent the PLO from playing its true role in the battle for liberation.

4. The political initiatives and ideas proposed by the occupation authorities about elections in the occupied territories aim only to preoccupy the society with a futile argument, which only aims to abort the flaming intifadah. Our enemy will not concede anything to us except by force. Therefore, we urge our people to be fully alert against what our deceptive enemy proposes. Let our slogan be: No to the initiatives of Rabin and Shamir. No to elections before the expulsion of the occupation.

Second: On the external level [as published]

1. To fight all Israeli products, to use local products instead of them, and to encourage local products.

2. We warn all authorities' agents, who may be tempted to steal people's properties. We also call on citizens to intensify night guards and to confront thiefs.

4. [Number as published] To preserve the course of the educational process and to compensate students in houses, mosques, and everywhere for what has been missed. Also to fight the policy of stultification and to endeavor with all possible means to open universities and educational institutions.

5. To encourage the Islamic custom, which many of our girls began to adopt everywhere within the Islamic framework of the blessed intifadah, and within the framework of the Islamic trend, which is based on regulations and guidelines of the true religion—Islam.

6. The continuity of the intifadah has been accomplished by grace and mercy from God, and then by the unity of efforts and people's generosity. Therefore, we urge merchants not to follow Satan, monopolize commodities, and exploit people. We urge owners of factories to absorb the largest possible number of workers, increase productivity, and provide the necessary commodities.

Activities of Resistance and Confrontation

1. A general and comprehensive strike to be observed on Tuesday, 28 February 1989, to protest against the enemy throwing booby-trapped toys to innocent children—an act that shows the occupation's barbarism and savageness.

2. To fast on Thursday, 2 March 1989, in revival of the traditions of the Prophet, may God's blessings be upon him, to increase fasting during Rajab and in solidarity with the detainees in occupation prisons.

4. [Number as published] To hold prayers on Friday, 3 March 1989, for the souls of the innocent martyrs, who were martyred by occupation bullets and booby-trapped toys.

Let the intifadah continue on the path of jihad and liberation until God speeds the salvation and the decisive victory.

God is great, and thanks be to Him.

[Signed] The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas)

[Dated] 19 Rajab 1409 Hegira, 25 February 1989.

Egypt

Civil Aviation Agreement Reached With Libya

JN0103185189 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] An agreement was reached with the Libyan Civil Aviation authorities yesterday to allow Egyptian planes to pass through the Libyan airspace in exchange for allowing Libyan planes to pass through Egyptian airspace as of the beginning of February [as published]. This was stated by Egypt Air President Eng Muhammad Fahim Rayyan.

Al-Majid Interviewed on Regional Cooperation

PM2802122889 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 24 Feb 89 pp 24,27

[Unattributed interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, told AL-HAWADITH that the new economic grouping comprising Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and North Yemen is "not a closed grouping, nor is it a bloc or a polarization, but it is a beginning. In Arab action we have witnessed numerous phases and various forms of unionist experiments. We must abandon the negative aspects and move toward the positive aspects. We must transcend past experiments on the basis of definite future elements. The aims of the new phase have been defined independently from slogans. Nothing prevents coordination and integration, while every state preserves its national presence."

In his interview with AL-HAWADITH during his visit to Riyadh 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said: The new union is not a unity movement, but an attempt to bring about a mode of phased cooperation and integration that would give the inhabitants of these states the opportunity to travel freely and provide a suitable investment climate for businessmen. Thus we can proceed toward the positive aspects of common Arab action according to well-studied plans and guidelines displaying the positive factors agreed on by the states' leaders and peoples.

AL-HAWADITH: Many people have spoken of the existence of contacts with Libya and Syria. Some have set a date for the resumption of Egyptian-Syrian and Egyptian-Libyan relations. How true are such reports?

'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid: True, many people have talked about this and cited names and even meeting places. But the truth is that is has not happened at all. Some Arab states—foremost among them, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—and non-Arab states intervened to cool the atmosphere. We responded to all these contacts. I emphasize that there are no differences between Egypt and Syria, but there are views on certain aspects. Differing views cannot ruin friendship. We have responded to our Arab brothers' efforts on this basis. We commend the efforts made in this regard by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. But no direct contacts have been made between any Egyptian and Syrian officials recenly, apart from a greeting and friendly meeting between me and the Syrian foreign minister at a social gathering in Paris.

Furthermore, no Libyan-Egyptian meetings have taken place since the Geneva meeting between me and a Libyan official—on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session there—which dealt with Egyptian workers' rights in Libya. There are no disagreements between the Egyptian and Libyan peoples. There are only differing views on political issues.

I affirm that the atmosphere of Arab accord will help improve Egypt's relations with the two fraternal countries, especially since Syria showed a friendly approach when it agreed to Egypt's reinstatement as a member of the Arab Agriculture Organization. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you expect the level of representation to be raised in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue?

'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid: The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has become a fact and there will be no going back. Its initiation constituted a U.S. recognition of the PLO. Does the United States deal with phantoms in its negotiations? The Palestinians, as I said, have offered the United States and the entire world all that has been required of them. We hope that the level of representation will be raised between the two sides and that dialogue will produce new positive factors to support world peace and legitimate Palestinian rights.

AL-HAWADITH: What role does Egypt play in the prevailing atmosphere of Arab accord?

'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid: Arab accord is now assuming its natural course toward more contacts and consutations. The world sensed this in recent international conferences, beginning with the Geneva UN General Assembly session, where united stances brought Arab issues to the forefront and drew the world's attention. Also, the Arabs adopted similar stances at the Paris conference on chemical weapons. This is certainly attributable to wise Arab diplomacy which, supported by the forces backing the Arab rights, must now take extensive action and choose the right time to exert international pressure to establish peace.

AL-HAWADITH: Is Egypt making any efforts to help Sudan resolve problems in the south?

'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid: Egypt always supports Sudan—both government and people—by virtue of the brotherhood, neighborhood, and staunch historic relations

between the two countries. Egypt is currently making efforts and mediations to end the problems in southern Sudan, and I hope that Sudan will soon find solutions to those problems.

AL-HAWADITH: Have there been any new developments in Egyptian-Soviet relations?

'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid: Egyptian relations with the Soviet Union are developing constantly, reflecting rapprochement, understanding, and respect. The change in the Soviet leadership and the "restructuring" policy have resulted in positive developments. There are many more moves toward accord and understanding than toward tension and confrontation. [passage omitted]

Ghali on Peace Conference, Arab Summit, Syria

JN2702203589 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 26 Feb 89 pp 1, 17

[Interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by 'Abd al-Karim Ya'qub in Abu Dhabi; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ya'qub] There is much talk and speculation these days about an Israeli military action against Iraq or Jordan in a bid to break out of the current impasse. What stand will Egypt take if such aggression takes place?

[Ghali] I rule this out. I do not see any military confrontations in the region right now.

[Ya'qub] Do you share the Soviet Union's convictions that the international conference for peace in the Middle East will be held next year?

[Ghali] We are working for the convocation of an international conference that acts as a framework for the attainment of a peaceful settlement of the Palestine question.

[Ya'qub] Do you think the United States is really working for the international conference?

[Ghali] The fact that the United States is hesitant requires further Arab action and further Arab diplomatic contacts with the Soviet Union, the United States, or the European Community in order to convince the United States of the importance of the international conference.

[Ya'qub] On the level of the Arab role, its importance, and concentration on it, do you think the anticipated Arab summit will be held this spring?

[Ghali] I do not have any information about this Arab summit. However, we in Egypt hope that the efforts to hold it will succeed because we need further cooperation and solidarity among Arab countries.

[Ya'qub] Will Egypt attend the summit if it is invited?

[Ghali] Egypt welcomes any invitation addressed to it because this will help it contribute further to Arab solidarity.

[Ya'qub] Do you think Egyptian-Syrian relations have started to improve?

[Ghali] We hope that relations between Egypt and Syria will improve.

[Ya'qub] Will delegations from the two countries exchange visits in the near future?

[Ghali] I have no information about this subject.

[Ya'qub] Do you think Syria will join the quadripartite Arab Cooperation Council?

[Ghali] I have no information about this subject. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Defends Wafd Leader, Interior Minister

JN2802194589 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Feb 89 pp 1, 6

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has denied the accusations and allegations against Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj al-Din. Zaki Badr claimed to the parliamentary affairs editors the day before yesterday [25 February] that Fu'ad Siraj al-Din received funds from the capital investment companies to spend on an antigovernment campaign.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi affirmed that the accusations and allegations of the interior minister are baseless. The prime minister also asserted that he has not heard anything about the issue and denied any knowledge of such a thing.

The prime minister voiced the belief that the interior minister could not have made such accusations and allegations. He affirmed that the allegations by Zaki Badr to the effect that the name of Fu'ad Siraj al-Din is included in the barakah lists [the lists containing the names of ranking officials taking bribes from capital investment companies] are without foundation. He added: "I have not heard of such a thing. I have not been informed of any names." The prime minister was responding to questions posed by the parliamentary affairs editors at the Consultative Council.

In reply to a question on the government's plan to resolve the current crisis with the opposition parties, the prime minister said that resolving the crisis before the president's return from his foreign tour is not ruled out. The prime minister affirmed that his relationship with Fu'ad Siraj al-Din is very good and friendly. Dr Sidqi added that he exchanges visits with him. He said that

Fu'ad Siraj al-Din is a public figure. He also emphasized that the government does not refuse to sit with the opposition and subject its policies to scrutiny and consideration.

The prime minister commented on the People's Assembly incidents and said: "We must tolerate the democratic game. What happened at the Egyptian Parliament also happens at other world parliaments. In the Spanish Parliament, rightist deputies exchanged fire with socialist deputies. The same thing happens at the Netherlands, Italian, and FRG Parliaments".

The prime minister denied the occurrence of torture in jails and said: "Go and see how the U.S. and FRG prison authorities torture prisoners and force them to make confessions."

The prime minister claimed that the interior minister and National Democratic Party deputies did not interrupt the opposition deputies while they were presenting their interpellations. He also claimed that the interior minister hardly managed to complete four or five phrases without interruption.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi said that his failure to attend the latest People's Assembly session, despite the fact that the interpellations were addressed to him and to the interior minister, was caused by his preoccupation with meetings with President Husni Mubarak, the USSR and Israeli foreign ministers, and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. He added that this failure to attend that session was also caused by his preoccupation with making preparations for the president's Japan and Gulf tour. All cabinet ministers attended that session. On showing videocassettes that are still under investigation at the People's Assembly, the prime minister said that the recordings were made after a permit had been obtained from the prosecution in this regard. He added: "The prosecution is still in the process of collecting information in this regard".

Condemns 'Assault' on Bakr

JN2802172389 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Feb 89 pp 1, 3

[Text] Egypt's Prime Minister Dr Sidqi has affirmed that contacts are continuing with the Cypriot Government to restore the Al-Rayyan Company's money. This came in a statement to journalists at the Consultative Council yesterday. The prime minister described the People's Assembly incidents last Monday and the attempted assault on the interior minister as unacceptable in part and parcel, particularly since they came when Cairo was the focus of world attention.

Prime Minister Dr Sidqi said that we adhere to democracy. We must shoulder its responsibilities, and our objective must be the common interest. He added that the majority and the government listened to the four opposition interpellations with open minds. The opposition representatives were not interrupted, and they spoke with full freedom, contrary to what happened to the interior minister the next day when he responded to the interpellations. The opposition prevented the interior minister from completing his statement, which is contrary to democracy.

The prime minister affirmed that the recordings presented by the interior minister were all permitted by the prosecutor. He said that we are not against the opposition and we do not reject dialogue with it or listening to its views. We hope that the day will come when the national forces—the majority and opposition—hold a dialogue on important issues, such as unemployment.

The prime minister said that we all—majority and opposition—must close ranks to serve the homeland and the general interests. There will be no problem if differences emerge.

Answering a question on whether there will be a limited cabinet reshuffle in the wake of the recent incidents at the People's Assembly, the prime minister said: The issue of a limited cabinet reshuffle is out of the question.

People's Assembly Approves Election Bill

NC0203131689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] At a meeting today under the chairmanship of 'Umar 'Abd al-Akhir, the People's Assembly's Committee for Constitutional and Legislative Affairs approved a draft bill on the new Consultative Council law. The law provides for electing the Council's members on an individual basis, so that two-thirds of the members will be elected directly, and at least half of those should be workers and farmers. The new law also stipulates that the remaining third be appointed by the president of the republic.

Iraq's 'Aziz Makes Brief Stopover, Departs

NC2702194589 Cairo MENA in English 1850 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, Feb 27 (MENA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi first deputy premier and foreign minister, stopped over at Cairo airport tonight from Bahrain on his way to Morocco.

On arrival, 'Aziz said he delivered a message to the Amir of Bahrain in his capacity as head of the current session of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and will hand another message to King Hassan II of Morocco in his capacity as head of the Arab Maghreb Union. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about the possibility of other Arab parties joining the Arab Cooperation Council, Tariq 'Aziz said the council is still in the founding phase, and will hold a ministerial meeting at the begining of next April to be followed by a summit conference here to discuss these issues.

On Iraq-Iran negotiations, 'Aziz said the cease-fire cannot be enough since it came according to a comprehensive peace plan.

He said Iraq has not so far found a serious Iranian attitude to establish peace. In this context, 'Aziz called upon Iran to offer what should be offered to establish comprehensive peace.

Tariq 'Aziz left here at the end of a few hours' stop-over en route to Rabat.

DPRK Envoy Arrives in Cairo With Message

NC2602060389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—Yang Yyong-sop, chairman of the Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly and special envoy of President Kim Il-song, arrived in Cairo today with a message from the DPRK president to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The DPRK official was met at the airport by Ambassador Makki, head of the Asian Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Departs 2 Mar

NC0203071489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—Yang Yyong-sop, chairman of the Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly and special envoy of President Kim Il-song, left Cairo early this morning with his delegation following a week-long visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, the Korean official said he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to the Korean president, in reply to the latter's message which he had conveyed to President Mubarak during the visit.

While in Cairo, the Korean official held talks with People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi, and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and international and regional issues of common concern, particularly the Palestinian issue. The Korean official noted that the two countries share identical views on these issues. He also praised Egypt's role in resolving the Middle East issue, adding that he invited the speakers of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council to visit the DPRK.

Sofaer Departs for London After Tabah Ceremony

NC0103095589 Cairo MENA in English 0925 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, March 1 (MENA)—Abraham Sofaer, director of the Legal Department at the U.S. State Department, left here today for London following a two-day visit to Egypt.

He attended on Sunday the signing ceremony of the three contracts on Tabah between Egypt and Israel.

The contracts include one on the purchase of the Sonesta Hotel and the tourist Nilson Viilage, another setting the date for a final Israeli withdrawal and the third on measures for tourists, traffic into and out of south of Sinai and Tabah.

Crude Oil Prices Increased Effective 1 Mar

NC2802140989 Cairo MENA in English 1355 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, Feb 28 (MENA)—The Egyptian Petroleum Corporation decided today to increase prices of Egyptian crude by fifteen cents per barrel as of tomorrow (the first of March). Accordingly, the prices will be as follows: Suez Gulf crude: $14.90; Bala'im crude: $14.15; Badran crude: $12.90; Ra's Gharib crude: $12.60

The price determination committee met today to review the prices and the situation in the oil market. These prices will be in force till March 15.

Loan Agreement Signed With Arab Fund 1 Mar

NC0103144589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1328 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—A loan agreement was signed between Egypt and the Kuwait-based Arab socio-economic development fund in Cairo today. Under the agreement, Egypt will obtain a long-term 35 million Kuwaiti dinar loan to finance the second phase of the Dumyat power plant. The loan will be repaid over 19 years with a 6-year grace period and a 3 percent annual interest rate.

Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, signed the agreement for Egypt and 'Abd al-Latif al-Hamad, chairman of the fund's board of directors, who is currently visiting Cairo, signed on behalf of the fund. This is the first loan Egypt will receive from the fund since 1979, when Egypt's membership in the Arab financing funds was suspended. However, Egypt's membership was restored during the Arab finance ministers' meeting in Muscat in April last year.

Central Bank Policies on Investment Reviewed

NC0103154989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The Higher Committee for Policies and Economic Affairs met today under Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. [passage omitted]

In a statement he made after the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the committee discussed the policy of the Egyptian Central Bank on investment banks. This policy aims to keep these banks operational and to support their economic role. He added that during a discussion of the banking policy, Central Bank Governor Dr Salah Hamid denied the rumors and false reports published by foreign newspapers casting doubt on the capability and resources of several banks operating in Egypt.

The Central Bank governor said that this has reached the level of a tendentious campaign propagated by individuals who want Egyptian expatriates to deposit their funds in foreign banks and finance companies. Their aim is to shake the confidence of the national banks' depositors, thus serving the interests of certain individuals or institutions, particularly following the success of the free currency market in Egypt which has denied those individuals and insitutions the right to deaal with foreign currencies through illegal channels.

The information minister added that Dr Salah Hamid underlined the Egyptian banks' capability to fulfill all commitments. He added that an Egyptian banking delegation will soon tour a number of Arab countries to put an end to these false rumors. [passage omitted]

MENA: AL-AHRAM Welcomes Bush Statements

NC2802070989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM welcomes the statements which U.S. President George Bush made after holding discussions in Tokyo with President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, and Israeli President Hayim Herzog on peace efforts that conform with the security of Israel and the security of "the Arab frinds."

In its commentary on Tuesday, the paper notes that the prevailing opinion in U.S. circles is that Washington will begin to act after President George Bush talks separately with President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, and Israeli President Herzog in Washington in April. The paper says that this is a good and auspicious gesture by Washington with regard to the Palestinian issue.

The paper calls on the United States to prepare a good atmosphere for these discussions, and to convince Israel to halt its barbaric actions against the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, especially now that the State Department has condemned Israel for violating Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories.

AL-AHRAM also urges the United States to persuade Israel to open a dialogue with the PLO as long as Washington has agreed to open a dialogue with the PLO after it accepted the PLO's pledge to repudiate terrorism according to the American conditions.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi To Propose Unity Among Arab Groups

JN0203085589 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 2 Mar 89 p 24

[Text] AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will soon begin an Arab tour that will take him to Riyadh, Damascus, Amman, Baghdad, and Kuwait.

During this tour, the Libyan leader will present an amended version of the unity plan he had earlier proposed to the Arab summit in Algiers. He will also discuss the new developments in the Arab arena, the Palestine question, and promotion of relations between Libya and the countries he will visit.

During his meeting with President Saddam Husayn, he will propose the establishment of unity among the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], so that Arab unity can be realized.

Agenda of General People's Congress 15th Session

LD0103215389 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The 15th ordinary session of the General People's Congress will convene at the Arabs' University of Medicine in Benghazi tomorrow. [passage omitted]

The agenda of the 15th ordinary session of the General People's Congress, which was drawn up by the masses of the basic people's congresses in their second ordinary session of 1988, will include the following issues:

Article 1: The revolutionary program. The study of the speeches of the brother leader during the 19th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

Article 2: The debate of the follow-up report on implementing the resolutions of the basic people's congresses drafted during the 14th ordinary session of the General People's Congress of 1988.

Article 3: The debate of the follow-up report prepared by the people's committee of the people's follow-up apparatus; the debate of the report of the Central Bank of Libya.

Article 4: The budgets: The follow-up of the transition budget of 1988, and the preparation of the transition budget of 1989; the follow-up of the implementation of the operating budget of 1988, and the preparation of the operating budget of 1989; the defense budget, and the allocation of aid for 1989.

Article 5: General reports:

1. The report of the General Establishment of Agricultural Production and of the companies belonging to it;

2. The report of the People's Committee of the Great Man-Made River;

3. The report of the People's Committee for Industry, and the apparatuses belonging to it.

4. The report of the General People's Committee for Economics and Trade and the companies belonging to it.

5. The report of the General People's Committee for Transport and the companies belonging to it.

6. The report of the General People's Committee for Treasury and the financial and banking establishments belonging to it.

7. The report of the General People's Committee for Maritime Wealth and the companies belonging to it.

8. The report of the National Petroleum Establishment and the companies belonging to it.

9. The report of the General Establishment for Electricity and the companies belonging to it.

10. The report of the Social Security fund.

Article 6: General Issues: People's Committee (?queries).

Article 7: Draftlaws:

1. Debate of the draft law on the consolidation of freedom.

2. Debate of the draft law on the powers of the people's committees.

3. Debate of the draft law on social security.

4. Debate of the draft law on the rights of Arab residents in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

5. Debate of the draft law on the exemption of the goods of Arab origin from customs fees.

6. Debate of the draft law on the protection of animal resources and trees.

7. Debate of the draft law on the exploitation of maritime resources.

8. Debate of the draft law on medals.

9. Debate of the draft law on equality in holiday entitlements.

10. Debate of the draft law on the amendment of some of the rules of national service.

11. Debate of the draft law on the organization of the agricultural bank.

12. Debate of the draft law on the exemption of some of the strategic industrial projects from taxes and customs fees.

13. Debate of a draft law on the amendment of the law on travel documents.

14. Debate of the draft law on the amendment of a ruling in the law of the judicial statute.

15. Debate of a draft law on the amendment of the ruling of the law on civil and commercial procedure.

16. Debate of the draft law regulating the affairs of minors.

17. Debate of the draft law on the supervision of prices.

18. Debate of the draft law on the collection of the installments of loans and public housing.

19. Debate of the draft law on industrial organization.

20. Debate of the draft law on the combat of the smuggling of goods outside customs departments.

21. Draft law on trash collection, transfer, and disposal, and the other cleaning services.

22. Draft law on the organization of electric energy.

Article 8: Foreign Policy:

1. Present the results of the visit of the brother leader of the revolution to the fraternal and friendly countries, and the results of the visits by heads of state to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

2. Debate on the historic declaration of the brother leader of the revolution on the 25th anniversary of the OAU.

3. Debate of the report by the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau on the follow up of the implementation of the resolutions of the basic people's congresses.

4. Follow up on the Arab union plan and the unionist steps with the brothers.

5. Report of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau on the Palestinian Arab cause, including the revolution of stones and the Palestinian state.

6. Endorsement of the international treaties and agreements concluded by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and other states during 1988.

DPRK's Kim Il-song Congratulates Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0103192489 Tripoli JANA in English 1805 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Mirrikh [March], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President of Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Kim Il-Song, has expressed the congratulations of himself and his government and people to the leader of revolution and the Libyan Arab people on the celebrated 12th anniversary of the announcement of people's power and the birth of the first 'Jamahiriyah' in history.

In his congratulations to the leader of revolution, Mr Kim says that his people is genuinely happy on the massive successes achieved by the Libyan Arab people thanks to its great revolution on the road of building the new Jamahiri society and destroying the hostile attempts of imperialism.

President Kim Il-song has reiterated the support and solidarity of his country with the just struggle waged by the people of great Al-Jamahiriyah and the leader of revolution for safeguarding the integrity of the Arab nation and foiling the U.S.-Zionist strategems expressing his conviction that the relations of friendship and cooperation between great Al-Jamahiriyah and Korea will strengthen the joint struggle for achieving freedom and happiness.

Transportation Agreement Signed With Tunisia

LD0203101189 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 02 Mar

[Excerpt] A protocol on cooperation in the field of transportation between the great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Tunisia was signed yesterday in Benghazi.

The protocol covers all types of land, sea, air, and rail transport, in addition to increasing various routes between the two fraternal countries. The protocol also leaves the way open for any country belonging to the Arab Maghreb Union, or any other Arab country, to join.

During the meetings of the joint Libyan Arab-Tunisian subcommittee, which is part of the Higher Libyan Arab-Tunisian Follow-Up Committee, a working paper comprising a number of points was also signed. The points include agreement on the unification of the transport sectors in the municipalities, the formation of working committees in each transport sector, and the taking of the necessary measures to this effect. The committees are to begin their work on 10 Ramadan [16 April]. [passage omitted]

Morocco

'Sources' Clarify Hassan-Polisario Contacts

LD0103175689 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Rabat, 1 Mar (MAP)—In clarifying statements emanating from a number of foreign countries since the meeting between the Moroccan monarch King Hassan II and the Polisario representatives, authoritative Moroccan sources pointed out today that no other contacts at any level have taken place with the Polisario since the royal meeting. No envoy nor any message has been sent to the Polisario since the meeting.

The sources added that it is worthwhile to recall that the talks during the royal meeting took place only with a view to holding the proposed referendum. The good offices of Mr Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, remain the only means for a settlement of the Saharan problem.

'Arafat Comments on Talks With Hassan, Departs

LD0103144889 Rabat MAP in English 1334 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Marrakech, March 1, (MAP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Tuesday left Marrakech at the end of a one-day visit to Morocco during which [he] was received by King Hassan II.

In a pre-departure statement, 'Arafat first expressed satisfaction at the proclamation of the Arab Maghreb Union "UMA" which is, he said, "a common and unionist Arab action in our Arab Maghreb." He praised the importance granted to the Palestinian cause in the Marrakech summit's final communique.

'Arafat said his meeting with King Hassan II was "as usual, positive and brotherly," saying the talks focused on "the problems and preoccupations of the Palestinian cause, mainly the intifadah [uprising]."

He added that he had conveyed to King Hassan "our people's thanks and those of the Palestinian leadership and of the children of the stones, and their congratulations on the Marrakech summit which augurs for common Arab action."

He said he had also conveyed to King Hassan the Palestinian people's "gratitude for all the help and assistance he is granting to his brothers the Palestinian combattants at all levels."

'Arafat said he had discussed with the sovereign the various "initiatives at all levels", mainly his meetings in Madrid with "the EEC troika (composed of Greek, Spanish and French foreign ministers" and with "Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and other meetings, important in many regards."

"I have also listened to the sovereign's precious advice concerning means to persevere on this path, particularly after the great decisions of the Palestinian National Council" and "have discussed means to persevere in the intifadah till the end of Israeli occupation", 'Arafat said.

The Palestinian leader added he had also examined means of "reactivating joint Arab and Islamic action, including that of the Al-Quds Committee chaired by HM the king."

'Arafat was accompanied in his visit by PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman and his adviser Sulayman al-Sharfah. He was seen off at the Marrakech-Menara airport by adviser to the king Ahmed Bensouda, the governor of the Marrakech Province, Dr. Mohamed Belmahi and the representative of the Palestinian State in Morocco Abu Marwan.

Filali Briefs Legislature on Maghreb Treaty
LD0103145689 Rabat MAP in English 1322 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Rabat, March 1, (MAP)—"The great event that our country hosted less than two weeks ago", namely the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union "UMA", "was the happy crowning of constant efforts HM King Hassan II and his brothers the heads of Maghreban states have steadily stepped up with perseverance, wisdom and clearsightedness", Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali said Tuesday.

Addressing the Moroccan House of Representatives convening in an extraordinary session to ratify the treaty creating UMA, Filali praised the Maghreban leader's efforts "to close ranks, rapproche viewpoints of the Arab Maghreb countries and inaugurate a new era of collective cooperation to settle problems left by colonialism and which constituted a major obstacle towards edifying the grand Maghreb, this task which has always been (...) the dream of successive generations in this region". [sentence as received]

Filali retraced the history of this "dream, now come true", from the "historical conference of Tangiers (1958)", then the "phase of lethargy" that followed that of "enthusiasm", to the "Zeralda summit" (last June in Algeria) and finally the Marrakech summit (last February) during which the treaty creating the Arab Maghreb Union was signed by the five Maghreban heads of state.

The Moroccan minister said the treaty has clearly defined the union's objectives based on "Following a common policy aimed at establishing international understanding and dialogue, safeguarding the independence of each member state, achieving common development and promoting an education preserving the spiritual and moral values of the precepts of Islam". Concerning the union's structures and its various organs, Filali noted that the "presidential council" composed of the five countries heads of state will be the "principal organ for elaborating general policies in all areas and for defining the necessary means for executing them."

The presidential council will examine the recommendations submitted to it by the ministerial and specialized commissions on various issues and will be sole to have the power to decide. In order to avoid any delay in the Maghreban organ's activities, Filali said, the presidential council will convene every six months to rapidly make the necessary decisions, with the council's presidency rotatingly assumed by each of the Maghreban heads of state.

The treaty, he went on, stipulates that the member countries prime ministers could meet every time it was necesary, but it is the "Council of Foreign Ministers" which will be the main organ assisting the Maghreban heads of state in their task.

The other organ assisting the heads of state is the "follow up committee", composed of "ministers designated to this effect by the five governments" and which are in charge of permanently following up the union's action. In addition, Filali further added, there are "specialized ministerial commission" whose creation and prerogatives are in the power of the Presidential Council.

It was also decided to create a secretariat general composed of one representative from each of the five Maghreban states and who will exercise their functions under the authority of the union's acting chairman.

A "consultative council" is also stipulated, composed of ten representatives from each Maghreban state, to be chosen by the parliamentary institutions of each country or by virtue of laws in force in each member state. The union will also have a judiciary body composed of two magistrates from each country and in charge of deciding on differences stemming from the interpretation or the implementation of the treaty or the agreements concluded in the union's framework. This body, whose verdicts will be enforceable and without appeal, will give its opinion on legal questions, the minister said.

Filali said important clauses in the treaty stipulate that the independence of each member state be safeguarded and that any aggression against one member state is considered aggression against all.

He added that the member states have pledged not to permit any activity on their territory likely to undermine the security, the territorial integrity or the political system in any of the other member states, a thing, Filali said,

"reflecting the member states determination to reinforce relations of brotherhood and neighbourliness and consolidate peace, security and stability in the region."

Sudan

Further on Continuing Government-Army Crisis

Spokesman Denies Army Takeover

EA0103170989 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The Sudanese Government official spokesman, Dr Bashir Fadlallah, minister of information and culture, has denied reports by foreign news media of an Armed Forces takeover. He said the government is carrying out its duties as usual.

He also said the Armed Forces had not given the government a deadline of noon yesterday. He said the Armed Forces were carrying out their prime task of staunchly defending the country. He said the 1-week time limit was included in one of the points of the Armed Forces memorandum, but that a positive reply had been received from the government, bringing an end to the link between the 1-week ultimatum and a takeover.

The official spokesman said in a statement to SUNA that the political and military situation was calm and that the issues were being discussed by the appropriate body, the National Defense Council. The spokesman said that many circles want to create confusion by reporting biased news about Sudan.

Army Issues Statement on Memo

EA0103171789 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1245 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpts] We begin our program with the official statement issued by the General Command of the People's Armed Forces yesterday evening.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, may all of you cling to God's rope and not be scattered. God has spoken the truth.

An official statement from the General Command of the People's Armed Forces:

First: The Armed Forces made it clear in their earlier memorandum that they stand by democracy, the choice of the Sudanese people, and that they are working in accordance with Article 15 of Sudan's transitional Constitution of 1985.

Second: The Armed Forces, under the command of their supreme commander, do not in any way delegate their responsibilities and powers, provided for under Article 15 of the Constitution, to any other political or security authority.

Third: The Armed Forces insist on the implementation of all the points in their memorandum dated 20 February 1989, addressed to the supreme commander of the Armed Forces and the chairman of the National Defense Council.

Fourth: All the commands and combat formations of the Armed Forces reject any suggestion of negligence or military indiscipline. They state that immediate and constant support for the military is the way to restore the military and strategic balance. [Koranic quotation omitted]

[Signed] The General Command of the People's Armed Forces.

The General Command held a long meeting yesterday morning. Later the members of the General Command met the officers in charge of commands, services, and units and other senior officers. The meeting lasted over 4 hours. The statement which we have just read was issued after the meeting.

MENA on 'Worsened' Crisis

NC0103135589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Mar (MENA)—The political crisis between the government and the Army in Sudan has worsened following the Army commanders' insistence on the implementation of all the terms of their memorandum to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

There was much reaction today among the various political circles and in the Constituent Assembly to the statement issued by the Army last night in which it declared its insistence on refusing to transfer its responsibilities and authority, as provided for by Article 15 of the Constitution, to any other political or security authority. The opposition parties have called on Al-Mahdi to resign.

The Sudanese Armed Forces have also declared a state of maximum, all-out alert. A responsible military source said that the reason for this is the Army's (?monitoring) of some movements at the entrances to the capital. He added that this measure is a security one in the current circumstances. He stressed that the Sudanese Armed Forces will remain in a state of constant alert until the crisis is resolved.

The Sudanese State Council held an emergency session this morning under its chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani with leaders of the political parties to discuss the situation and find a way out of the political crisis between the government and the Army.

This morning, the Constituent Assembly began debating the statement delivered by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to the Assembly on Monday, in which he said that he will resign on Sunday if the Armed Forces do not support him and stand by his side and if the trade unions do not halt the strikes.

The Al-Ummah Party, which is led by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi himself, issued a statement today expounding the party's view of the political crisis between the Army and the government and calling for uniting all the efforts of the political forces in order to break out of the crisis.

Commenting on the Armed Forces' statement, Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Party, said that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi must tender his resignation today and not tomorrow. He added that the Armed Forces' view is the same as that of all the political parties outside the government and the trade unions; namely, that the prime minister should not be given any authority as long as he does not declare his acceptance of the program proposed by these political forces. Ahmad al-Husayn said that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has no reason to wait until Sunday to submit his resignation.

Sudanese lawyers' doyen 'Abdallah al-Hasan has also called on Al-Mahdi to resign. He said the prime minister's demand for authority is rejected.

(Higgu Ya'qub), head of the employees union, has described Al-Mahdi's speech before the Constituent Assembly as ambiguous. He said Al-Mahdi did not present a clear program to overcome the crisis in the country. He called for a national salvation program to be implemented by a government formed from all the peoples, whether represented inside the Assembly or not.

Al-Tayyib al-'Ubayd Badr, chairman of the Farmers Association, expressed his belief that the prime minister's threat to resign has come too late. He said that the resignation should have been submitted some time ago, because the government could not achieve peace and tackle the problems of democracy that concern the country.

Meanwhile, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has said that Sudan is facing a real crisis. He added that treatment of the crisis needs a correct diagnosis and that the required decision to overcome the crisis must be comprehensive and all-embracing.

Possible Resignation Affirmed

NC0103190989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Mar (MENA)—Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, minister of finance and secretary general of the Sudanese Ummah Party, has affirmed that in the event the Armed Forces and the unions do not endorse Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's policy before Sunday, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will submit his resignation to the State Council on Sunday morning.

Dr al-Da'im said that in such a case the State Council will call for a meeting of the Constituent Assembly on Monday to choose a new prime minister to replace Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Following the party leaders' meeting with the members of the State Council in the Republican Palace today, Mr al-Da'im affirmed that if Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi resigns, the Ummah Party will put forward a new candidate.

Military Coup Rumors 'Refuted'

PM0203093589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Mar 89 pp 1,2

['Uthman Mirghani and Muhammad Ahmad Hisham report: "Tension Prevails in Khartoum After Rumors of Military Coup"]

[Excerpts] London, Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—The Sudanese capital yesterday witnessed a tense atmosphere, especially after rumors among the Sudanese both inside the country and abroad about a military coup. Although informed political sources refuted that, tension and rumors nevertheless continued, especially in view of the senior Sudanese Army officers' closed meeting held throughout the day yesterday to prepare their response to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's statement in the Constituent Assembly (parliament) the day before, in which he threatened to resign on Sunday if certain conditions were not met. [passage omitted]

An informed military source has emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a maximum alert has been declared in the Army and new orders have been issued to prevent civilians from getting near any military positions. The source said the Army commanders discussed all possibilities in their meetings in light of the prime minister's speech and his threat to resign. They also discussed security developments following the attack against the home of Sudanese Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani and the fall of Torit to the rebels in the south.

The source refused to deny or confirm whether the military discussed the likelihood that the current confrontation with the government could lead them to think of seizing power. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, high-ranking security sources yesterday confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the number of those arrested after the shooting incident against the home of Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani has risen to five.

Preliminary enquiries have revealed that one of the five people accused has links with a new Hizballah organization in Sudan. In his statements to the Sudanese security forces the accused confessed that meetings were held to prepare for that operation, which was aimed against Al-Mirghani's life.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that among the five arrested is a retired senior Sudanese officer who is suspected of having links with the accused.

The police had received a call from one of the accused in which he provided some information. Then the information was processed and three of the accused were arrested as a result. A Toyota truck believed to have been used in the attack on Al-Mirghani's home has been found. [passage omitted]

Military Source Rules Out Coup

JN0203104589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Mar (WAKH)—A senior Sudanese military source has revealed that the recent meeting of the Sudanese Armed Forces Command reached a decision ruling out any possibility of the Army taking over power through a military coup.

In today's issue here, the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD cited this source as saying the Army will only intervene in case the political authorities fail to reach a quick solution to the crisis. At that time, the Army will work to impose a civilian-military rule in which the power of sovereignty will be assumed by a military council whereas civilians will assume the executive authority by electing a prime minister based on parliamentary majority or on the basis that he has a strong character which enjoys party and unionist consensus.

The source added that if the Army is forced to impose a joint civilian-military rule, then this will be a transitional option and situation, which may last 2 or 3 years and whose top priorities will be to decide the conflict in southern Sudan, hold the constitutional conference, circumvent the economic and living crisis, and supervise the holding of parliamentary elections in accordance with a new elections law agreed upon by all parties.

State Council Meets With Political Party Leaders

EA0103183889 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The chairman and members of the State Council have been in a meeting with the leaders of the political parties at the Republican Palace since this morning. The meeting is within the framework of the series of meetings of the State Council with the political parties and trade union organizations. It was due to discuss the current political situation in the country, the unity of the internal front, and the preservation of the democratic process.

The meeting will also be considering the expansion of the government base following the latest developments in Sudan. The meeting is still in session at the time of this bulletin. We will give you more details in later bulletins.

Meeting To Resume 2 Mar

EA0103204089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The enlarged meeting which began this morning at the Republican Palace, attended by Mr Mirghani al-Nasri and Dr Pacifico Lado Lolik, members of the State Council, and representatives of the political parties and organizations, ended its business at 1800 this evening. The meeting was part of political consultations conducted by the State Council on the general mobilization, support for the Armed Forces, and the unity of the internal front in the face of the political situation in the country. The meeting discussed the political parties' views and proposals in this regard.

The meeting will resume at 1000 tomorrow morning to consider further questions from the parties with the aim of drawing up precise recommendations to submit to the chairman of the State Council.

Ministry Denies Seeking Egyptian Military Aid

EA0103184489 Khartoum National Unity Radio in English 1330 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday denied a press report that Sudan has requested urgent military assistance from Egypt through its ambassador in Cairo. In a statement issued yesterday, the Foreign Ministry described as untrue and baseless the news circulated by the KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, KUNA, quoting the Lebanese newspaper, AL-SAFIR, on Sudan's ambassador to Egypt's request to the Egyptian Government for military assistance.

KUNA had earlier said Sudan's ambassador to Cairo had met with the Egyptian foreign and defense ministers in relation to providing Sudan with urgent military assistance, including airplanes, tanks, and 100 military experts.

SPLA Claims Capture of Farajok Garrison

EA0103163989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Here now is the latest development in the war situation in Eastern Equatoria. SPLA forces of the "Bright Star" campaign forces overran another strategic Army garrison within 72 hours of the capture of Torit.

"Bright Star" campaign forces today overran Farajok at 0700 hours, a key garrison town on the Ugandan border. It is to be recalled that the "Bright Star" campaign commander had given Farajok and Nimule 72 hours to either join the SPLA or evacuate the garrisons. "Bright

Star" campaign forces have obeyed this order. Fighting started early this morning and along with the remnants of the Torit garrison, the enemy was expelled from Farajok. SPLA warning for Nimule still stands. The garrison at Nimule must either join the SPLA or evacuate within 48 hours.

SPLA Regrets Civilian Deaths in Juba

EA0103190089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA today told Radio SPLA that strong orders have been given to SPLA artillery gunners around Juba town to improve their accuracy so that the bombs fall only on military targets to avoid the loss of civilians and innocent lives. The spokesman regretted the loss of civilian and innocent lives and assures the population that steps have been taken so that this is avoided as much as possible.

The spokesman also called upon the population to understand and appreciate the situation, that it is unavoidable in any war for innocent people to be caught up in crossfire. (?This was) true of the First and Second World Wars, of the American Civil War, of the recent Iraq-Iran war, and of all wars in general. This is the reality. The SPLA has no intention to harm civilians anywhere, anytime, but, on the contrary, to protect civilians for which it took up arms in the first place.

Given the realities of war and its sometimes unfortunate consequences, the spokesman said, those southerners who say SPLA is intentionally hitting civilian targets do so either out of ignorance or otherwise they are playing to the tune of their paymasters in Khartoum. The SPLA uses long-range artillery. If the same artillery is used to hit Shajarah [residential area in southwest Khartoum] barracks in Khartoum, for example, from a distance of several miles, not all the shells would fall on Shajarah barracks or none may fall on it. For that matter, they may fall on residential areas in the vicinity of Shajarah.

However, with the passage of time, the gunners adjust their weapons and the probability of hitting the target is increased, while the probability of hitting civilian or wrong targets is reduced. This is the law of projectiles and SPLA cannot change it. The spokesman reiterated that the intended targets of the SPLA in the bombardment of Juba are purely military targets, that any civilian casualties are unintended and regretted, and that the probability of the bombs falling on their intended target will increase.

The artillery bombardment of military targets in Juba will continue and be increased and civilians are advised to move far from military targets and jump into the nearest ditch during bombardment, or if no ditch, to lie very flat on their stomachs and to avoid panic, running, or crowding.

Councillor Says Dispute With Kenya 'Settled'

EA0203112789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Idris al-Banna, State Council member, and his delegation returned home this evening after attending the funeral of the late Japanese emperor, Hirohito. Mr al-Banna told a radio reporter on arrival that the visit was successful. He met a number of Japanese officials with whom he discussed Sudanese-Japanese relations and ways of strengthening and developing them.

He added that the visit had given him an opportunity to meet U.S. President George Bush; Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak; Jordanian monarch King Husayn; Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British foreign secretary; the Moroccan representative, and the representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi. During the meeting with President Moi the dispute between Sudan and Kenya was settled.

Bahrain

Heir Apparent Returns from Doha Visit 28 Feb

JN2802135889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1242 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Manama, 28 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, returned to Manama from Doha this afternoon following a 1-day visit to the State of Qatar.

The visit by the Bahraini heir apparent to the State of Qatar was made in response to an invitation extended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister. His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah also met in Doha with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar.

New Zealand Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

JN0103191689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1845 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Manama, 1 Mar (WAKH)—New Zealand Foreign Minister Cedric Russell Marshall and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Manama this evening on a 3-day visit to Bahrain.

During the visit, the New Zealand foreign minister will hold talks with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and other state officials on promoting relations between Bahrain and New Zealand in all fields. The talks will also focus on current developments in the Gulf, Arab and international issues, Euro-Arab cooperation, and issues of mutual interest.

Holds Talks With Amir

JN0203114589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 2 Mar (WAKH)—This morning His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received Cedric Russell Marshall, New Zealand foreign minister, and the accompanying delegation currently visiting Bahrain. During the meeting they reviewed bilateral relations, current developments in the region, and issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Crown Prince Welcomes ACC, Urges Arab Summit

JN2802092489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Feb 89 p 1

[By Rakan al-Majali, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Kuwait—Kuwait will soon launch intensive contacts to convene an Arab summit meeting in Riyadh since it believes that the time has come for allout pan-Arab efforts to deal with current issues of concern to the Arab World, Kuwait Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Sabah said here Monday.

A summit is essential now to unify Arab positions in the face of the common challenges and to deal with all developments, Shaykh Sa'd said in an interview with the JORDAN TIMES and AL-RA'Y.

The Kuwaiti leader paid tribute to His Majesty King Husayn's endeavours in bolstering pan-Arab solidarity and said Kuwait takes pride in the King's national and honourable stand vis-a-vis Arab affairs in general and matters related to Kuwait in particular.

Kuwaitis feel proud of the King's support for their country during Iran's shelling of Kuwaiti territory and when Kuwait was exposed to security problems, Shaykh Sa'd added.

He said that King Husayn had placed Jordan's potentials at Kuwait's disposal during all these events and in the face of external threats.

A visit to Kuwait by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak this week was successful and fruitful, Shaykh Sa'd said.

Mubarak held intensive talks with Kuwaiti leaders and paved the way for a greater measure of Egyptian-Kuwaiti cooperation, the crown prince added.

Shaykh Sa'd said Kuwait welcomes the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) since the country supports all unionist plans and all measures intended to bolster inter-Arab cooperation.

Shaykh Sa'd referred to the situation in the Gulf and said his country had exerted strenuous efforts to stop the conflict between Iran and Iraq and had urged the U.N. secretary general to maintain his endeavours to bring about a lasting settlement between the two countries.

Shaykh Sa'd described his recent visit to Iraq as important and fruitful. The visit, he said, offered a chance for discussion on issues of mutual interest.

Shaykh Sa'd noted that Kuwait had hosted a meeting of an Arab League mediation committee to help bring about settlement to the civil strife in Lebanon and would continue endeavours in that respect. He described the Kuwait meeting, which was attended by heads of religious and political parties in Lebanon, as positive and said it would contribute to the solution of the problem. Shaykh Sa'd said that his country continues to support the Palestinian uprising and would continue to work towards achieving just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Confers With PDRY Counterpart
LD0103143689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1232 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 1 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed Wednesday conferred with visiting South Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali on the latest political developments in the Arab world, an official source said.

Al-Dali outlined to Shaykh Sabah the outcome of his talks during recent visits to Amman and Damascus, the source said.

The Kuwaiti official, for his part, briefed Al-Dali on the results of talks here last week between an Arab League Comittee on Lebanon and Lebanese spiritual leaders.

Al-Dali had the brief meeting with Shaykh Sabah during a stopover in Kuwait as the Yemeni minister was flying from Damascus to Aden.

PDRY's Al-Dali Departs
LD0103211689 Kuwait KUNA in English 2001 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 1 (KUNA)—Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali left here today ending a brief visit to Kuwait.

Al-Dali was seen off by Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman al-Shahin and other senior officials.

Fund To Loan 6 Million Kuwaiti Dinars to Syria
JN0103165389 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 28 Feb 89 p 15

[Excerpt] The Syrian Government and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development have signed an agreement whereby the fund is to extend a loan of 6.22 million Kuwaiti dinars [KD] to finance an irrigation project in the Al-Ghab and Al-'Ashshar plains in Syria.

Badr Mashari al-Humaydi signed for the fund and Syrian Planning Minister Dr Sabah Baqjaji signed for his country. Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus and a number of Planning Ministry officials attended the signing.

The project is designed to achieve an increase in agriculutral production and help food self-sufficiency in Syria as well as to raise the income and standard of living of the population in nearby districts.

The loan will cover approximately 14 percent of the overall cost of the project, estimated at 1.751 billion Syrian pounds. It will be repayable over 24 years, with a 5-year grace period, at a 3 percent interest rate.

With the signing of this loan agreement, loans made available to finance 9 projects in Syria will have totaled approximately 46 million KD. [passage omitted]

Amir on Armed Forces Role in 'Delicate Times'
JN2802143489 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 27 Feb 89 pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] HH [His Highness] the Amir has said that Kuwait will not fall prey to anyone as its armed forces are a protective shield against internal and external threats.

The Amir, who is also the Commander-in-Chief, praised the performance of the armed forces during "delicate times." He made the comments during an audience with top Army, police and National Guard officials, on the occasion of the 28th National Day. [passage omitted]

The Amir said: "The armed forces have been a protective shield against all those who sought to tamper with the safety and security of this country, from within (the country) and from outside.

"Though this country is small it will not fall an easy prey," he stressed.

"By confronting those who tampered with Kuwait's security and safety, you (the armed forces) have proved your readiness to defend (Kuwait) and sacrifice (your lives) for the country" the Amir added.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah, who also met the high officials said that the unity of the people of Kuwait is the strength of the country. [passage omitted]

'Secret' Petitions Urge Restoration of Parliament
NC2802075389 Paris AFP in English 0740 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Feb 28 (AFP)—Secret petitions have been circulating in Kuwait for several weeks calling for a return to parliamentary life, but official reaction has been cautious to the tens of thousands of signatures.

The 50-member National Assembly, elected every five years, was dissolved in July 1986 by decree of Kuwait's ruler, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, because of strains between the government and parliament.

Between 30,000 and 40,000 people, all male Sunni Moslems, have already signed the petitions, according to reliable sources here who note that the figure represents a majority of the registered electorate.

In the February 1985 polls, only 56,846 people were registered on the electoral list.

Kuwait has an estimated population of 1.6 million inhabitants, with foreigners accounting for 60 percent of the total.

The Shi'ite Moslem community, not all of whose members have Kuwaiti citizenship, represents an estimated 40 percent of the population, while women do not have the vote and are excluded from politics.

The information minister, Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, has implicitly denied rumours that senior figures were behind the petitions.

"I affirm that no senior official has given instructions to citizens on any motion concerning public affairs," he said. "It is necessary to adopt a prudent line in the face of this motion, which could be contrary to the law."

But the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has reported that several former deputies were behind calls for the National Assembly to be restored.

The Kuwait security services are following developments "very closely," but have so far taken no action, according to an informed source here. [passage omitted]

Oman

Diplomatic Relations Established With Ghana

JN0103133289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The governments of the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Ghana decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today. A joint statement was issued in Muscat and Accra. [passage indistinct]

PDRY

YAR's Al-'Arashi Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2802144089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemei unity and Standing Committee member, arrived in Aden today to participate in the Higher Yemeni Council Secretariat's first session of 1989.

In a statement to media in Aden, the minister said that during his visit he would convey a message from brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congreess to brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] secretary general in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]; and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the southern part of our homeland.

Al-'Arashi also explained that during the visit the 1989 Higher Yemeni Council session will be held to carry out the Council's duties stipulated in the Ramadan agreement last May. Some of these duties pertain to the draft constitution of unified Yemen. He also expressed hope that unionist efforts would continue in the same spirit under which the unionist agreement was reached during Ramadan. He also said that during the session preparations will be made to convene the joint Ministerial Committee and review the work of the joint committees.

He was received by Rashid Muhammad Thabit, Central Committee member and minister of state for union affairs in the southern part of our homeland, and members of the secretariat committee in the southern part of the homeland. Al-'Arashi is accompanied by members of the secretariat in the northern part of the homeland.

Holds Talks With Nu'man

JN0103175589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, prime minister and member of the Political Bureau in the southern part of the homeland, met with Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity and Standing Committee member, at noon today. During the meeting the latter conveyed the greetings of brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member.

Talks dealt with unity issues, some of which are proposed for the agenda of the Higher Yemeni Council Secretariat's first round of talks in 1989. They also affirmed the current preparations for holding the next Ministerial Committee round. The meeting was attended by Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, minister of state for union affairs and member of the Central Committee in our southern part of the homeland.

Delivers Message to Al-'Attas

AB0103144489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpt] In his office at the secretariat of the Supreme Council Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, met with Brother Yahya al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity and member of the permanent committee in the northern part of the homeland. He conveyed an oral message from his Brother Colonel 'Ali Abdullah Salih, president of the Republic, general commander of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the People's General Congress, on issues of unitary work between the two parts.

During the meeting past achievements in unitary work were reviewed. The need to combine unitary departments and committees was affirmed, the important ones noted as the Supreme Yemeni Council and the Ministerial Committee. Follow-up work in joint ventures was

agreed upon. Also stressed was the need to push forward this year's unitary activities in order to meet our people's aspirations for reuniting and building a united and prosperous Yemen. [passage omitted]

Joint USSR Oil Development Projects Reviewed

EA0103150389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The Yemeni-Soviet permanent committee for economic and technical cooperation resumed its seventh session today at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals. The meetings were chaired by Brother Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, member of the Politburo, deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals; and Comrade Chirskov, Soviet minister of construction for petroleum and gas enterprises. A number of leaders of cooperatives attended.

The discussion included cooperation in the fields of electricity, oil well development and natural resources, fish and agricultural projects, the modernization of training centers and the Al-Shuqa construction project, training professional and health cadres, and transportation and communications projects. The progress of economic and technical cooperation in joint projects and the effective exploitation of economic energy in various fields was reviewed.

The joint permanent committee is expected to pay a visit to Shabwah Governorate tomorrow to follow up progress in the field of oil exploration, oil well development, and the construction of pipelines and their extension.

Party Cooperation Agreement Signed With Bulgaria

EA2802200089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpt] A protocol on bilateral cooperation for 1989-1990 between the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Bulgarian Communist Party was signed this morning at the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee's Secretariat. Brother 'Abd al-Razzaq Shaif, member of the Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee, signed for the Yemeni side, and Comrade [name indistinct], member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and deputy secretary for international relations, signed for the Bulgarian side. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

AL-SAFIR Report on Rift With Egypt Denied

LD0103163389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1529 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Mar (SPA)—A responsible source has denied the claim in the newspaper AL-SAFIR's Wednesday edition on the existence of a disagreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The source told SPA that what the paper reported was untrue, in total and in detail. He added that the Kingdom and Egypt are in full agreement over whatever benefits the interest of both countries and the entire Arab nation.

'Arafat Arrives in Abu Dhabi, Makes Statement

JN0103193189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Mar (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in the course of an Arab tour.

On hand to welcome him at the airport were Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamid, UAE information and culture minister, and Khalid Malik, Palestinian charge d'affaires in Abu Dhabi.

In an arrival statement, 'Arafat said he and UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan will review Arab and Palestinian developments. He will brief the head of state on his recent contacts and meetings with officials of the Socialist International, the EC, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

He will also update Shaykh Zayid on current developments in the occupied land and the mounting criminality of the Israeli enemy in the cities, villages, and camps of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as the tragic conditions in Nabulus which is being subjected to an Israeli military and economic blockade, 'Arafat added. He declared that the Palestinian people have resolved to continue their valiant intifadah [uprising] until victory, notwithstanding escalated Israeli repressive measures.

Meets With President Zayid

JN0203081089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received the PLO Executive Committee chairman this evening.

A responsible source said the meeting was held as part of the continued coordination and consultations between the two leaders to follow up on the efforts to achieve a just, lasting peace in the Middle East as well as the ways to support both the Palestine question and the continued intifadah [uprising] in the occupied homeland in light of the latest developments in the international diplomatic arena, particularly the recent Soviet move in the region and the need to hold an international peace conference as soon as possible.

The source pointed out that during the meeting His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, expressed hope for a genuine U.S. move to

achieve a comprehensive and just settlement. His highness pointed out that the United States should have taken the initiative and exerted more efforts than any other state whether in the Middle East or at the international level. The source added that the meeting also focused on the latest Arab developments and the task of the six-member committee to resolve the Lebanese problem in order to hold an emergency Arab summit to discuss the Palestine question and save Lebanon from its ordeal. Other important Arab issues were also discussed.

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN0203121689 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, at the Al-Mushrif Palace this morning. After the meeting, the minister said that they completed discussions on all the topics raised during the talks last night between His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, and Mr 'Arafat. In light of Shaykh Zayid's directives they stressed the need and importance of supporting the Palestinian cause and the valiant intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories at all levels, so that the Palestinian people can attain their just and legitimate rights, foremost of which is the establishment of their state on their national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital.

'Abdallah told WAM that the talks dealt with the current Arab and international efforts to convene an international peace conference in the Middle East as soon as possible. They also dealt with the need to intensify current efforts and contacts on the Arab scene to convene an emergency Arab summit to discuss ways to support the Palestinian cause, solve the Lebanese problem, and unify Arab ranks.

Rashid 'Abdallah said that his recent talks in Tokyo with Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno produced positive results in support of the Palestine question and the relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's special advisor, praised the results of last night's Zayid-'Arafat talks. He predicted that the results will soon have Arab and international implications.

In a statement to WAM, Abu Sharif described the talks between his highness the president and the Palestinian leader as constructive and positive. They focused deeply on the Arab efforts to pave the way for convening the international conference, he said. Abu Sharif added that the talks also dealt with the Israeli occupation forces' escalating organized terrorism against the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine and means of providing Arab support for the steadfastness and resistance displayed by the Palestinian people against the occupation forces. Abu Sharif stressed that Israel's terrorist practices against the Palestinian people and the use of the so-called iron fist will be confronted with an iron will and an escalation of the resistance against occupation until victory.

He expressed confidence that current contacts and arrangements to hold high-level Arab meetings aimed at drawing up a working plan to support Palestinian rights, especially the right to establish a Palestinian state, will greatly contribute to crystallizing tangible international steps to achieve these goals, despite the Israeli Government's intransigent stand.

Concluding his statement, Abu Sharif stressed the importance of the Arab masses supportng the valiant Palestinian intifadah. This support, he said, will gain special importance over the next few months in view of the effect it produces on strengthening Palestinian popular resistance against the occupation and forcing the Israeli enemy to withdraw from occupied Palestine.

Egypt's Al-Baz Makes Statement, Departs 28 Feb

JN2802184189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Feb (WAKH)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and head of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs, left Abu Dhabi for Cairo this evening following a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. He conveyed a message from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, on the results of the meetings and talks the Egyptian president held with a number of world leaders in Tokyo.

In a predeparture statement to WAM, Dr Usamah al-Baz said that the Egyptian president's message he conveyed to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today contained a comprehensive explanation of the outcome of the talks that the Egyptian president held in Tokyo with a number of world leaders. The talks focused on activating Middle East peace efforts and supporting the Palestinian people in their endeavors to realize peace on the basis of respecting their legitimate national rights.

In his statement to WAM, Al-Baz added that President Husni Mubarak's talks with those leaders—foremost among whom are Jordan's King Husayn, U.S. President George Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand, and Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita—tackled the need to work to help the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations succeed with the aim of bolstering security and stability in the Gulf region. He added that the talks with those leaders also dealt with the need to resolve the Lebanese crisis and support the Lebanese people in their struggle to realize national unity and eliminate the danger of partition.

Dr al-Baz paid tribute to the wise policy pursued by His Highness Shaykh Zayid and said that the Egyptian president "takes great pride in His Highness Shaykh Zayid, in

his opinions, advice, and farsightedness, and also in his pan-Arab sentiments, the importance that he attaches to pan-Arab issues and because he rises above events and not only to the level dictated by these events."

PDRY Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

JN0203094889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0650 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Mar (WAKH)—Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] foreign minister, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Kuwait this morning on a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] at the end of a tour which has included Jordan, Syria, and Kuwait. During the visit, the PDRY minister will hold talks with a number of officials in the UAE on current developments in the Arab arena and issues of mutual interest.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Approves Law Ratifying ACC Agreement

JN2802210189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Brother leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today approved the Law No 7-1989 which ratifies the foundation agreement of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

Following is the text of the law:

In the name of the people, we and the president of the Republic, having perused the permanent Constitution, upon the approval of the law by the Council of Ministers, and upon the ratification by the Consultative Council of the below-mentioned law, the text of which follows, have signed and issued this law.

Article 1. The agreement to establish the ACC grouping the Yemen Arab Republic, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Iraq, and the Arab Republic of Egypt attached to this law and signed on 10 Rajab 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 16 February 1989, has been approved.

Article 2. This law will be effective as of the date it is issued and published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in Sanaa on 22 Rajab 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 28 February 1989.

[Signed] Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Al-Asbahi Leaves for Baghdad Party Talks

JN2802181189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Brother Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, Consultative Council member and Standing Committee secretary, left for Baghdad this afternoon at the head of a delegation representing the Standing Committee and the General People's Congress on a visit to fraternal Iraq for several days at the invitation of the Iraqi Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

In a statement to SABA', Dr al-Asbahi said that the visit falls within the framework of the close relations between the two fraternal peoples and is part of the joy of our people and Arab nation at the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council, which constitutes a political breakthough and an advanced unionist step toward achieving our Arab nation's aspirations. He said that during the visit, he will hold talks with brother officials in the Iraqi Ba'th Party to bolster relations between the two political organizations. He added that at the end of the talks, cooperation minutes will be signed to strengthen the popular institutions and organizations in both countries, serve our Arab nation's causes, and achieve its goals.

Agriculture Minister Signs Accord With Somalia

JN2802190089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Our country's delegation to the meetings of the joint Yemeni-Somali committee under brother Dr Nasir 'Abdallah al-'Awlaqi, minister of agriculture and fisheries, returned to Saana today after participating in the Yemeni-Somali committee's second session in Magadishu, the Somali capital, from 22-26 February. In a statement to SABA', the minister of agriculture said that the committee meetings have achieved a great success by opening new horizons for cooperation between our country and Somalia. He pointed out that at the end of the session, the minutes of the meetings which include many laws were signed.

At the end of the session, a press statement was issued pointing out that the Somali side to the joint Yemeni-Somali committee highly appreciated the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council, which includes our country, Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan. It also welcomed the Arab Maghreb Union. The statement emphasized the need to promote economic, trade, and agricultural cooperation, increase the volume of exports between the two countries, exchange commodities, and draw up a program to organize the various aspects of cooperation, and resume flights between the two countries.

It also stressed the need to draw up a program to implement the educational and information agreement signed by the two countries, pointing to the importance of exchanging information materials, holding cultural weeks and art exhibitions, and start cooperation between the two news agencies and between the two press unions in both countries. It also stressed the need to exchange visits by officials in cultural and educational areas in order to promote cooperation between the two countries.

Iran Said To Break Working Group Agreement

JN0103173189 Baghdad INA in English 1710 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] United Nations, March 1, INA—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has informed the Security Council that Iran broke an agreement to establish an Iraq-Iran mixed military working group.

In a letter submitted to the secretary-general by Iraqi Ambassador to the U.N. 'Ismat Kittani, Mr. 'Aziz noted that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had communicated with the U.N. chief's personal representative, Jan Eliasson, Iraq's acceptance of an agreement reached between the two parties through the commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) for the first meeting of the working group to be held on Feb. 22.

But, Mr. 'Aziz pointed out, the Iranian side broke that agreement and refused to hold the meeting as agreed, meaning that the efforts made with it by the UNIIMOG commander "have thus far produced no result."

In the letter, distributed to the Security Council today, the Iraqi minister stated that the behavior of the Iranian side "is fully in keeping with Iranian conduct in general since the agreement of Aug. 8 last year was reached through you and up to the present time."

The Iranian side, Mr. 'Aziz added, "is not meeting its obligations and is not fulfilling the terms of an agreement reached with it in good faith and in all sincerity." He added that Iran had adopted a similar position towards the agreement reached though the International Committee of the Red Cross on the exchange of a limited number of sick and wounded prisoners, in as much as Iran "proceeded to trifle with the numbers agreed upon, then broke the agreement and suspended its implementation."

Mr. 'Aziz said in conclusion that "it is such perverse behavior that is the major reason for the breakdown of the direct negotiations and the failure thus far to make tangible progress towards a comprehensive and lasting peace."

'Source' Denies Report of Aid to Sudan

JN0103185089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—A responsible Iraqi source has denied a report published by the British newspaper THE DAILY TELEGRAPH today that Iraq has attempted to expand its influence by supplying Sudan with a number of tanks seized from the Iranians.

In a statement to INA, the responsible source said that the report is baseless and added that Iraq's has a policy of noninterferrence in the internal affairs of Arab states. The source added that Iraq does not need to expand its influence in any Arab state.

The source affirmed Iraq's full respect for the sovereignty of the Republic of the Sudan and also for the will of the fraternal Sudanese people.

Political 'Fugitives' Receive Amnesty 1 Mar

JN0103181789 Baghdad INA in English 1755 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 1, INA—The Revolution Command Council today issued a general amnesty on all Iraqi fugitives abroad and decided to stop all legal procedures against their political crimes with the exception of traitor Jalal al-Talbani and agents of the Iranian regime.

The decision to be effective from 1st next April till the 30th of the same month will allow those covered by the decision and [as received] return to the homeland to travel again abroad if they are engaged in a work or study and desire to follow it up.

UN Observers Chief Arrives in Baghdad 1 Mar

JN0103174489 Baghdad INA in English 1715 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 1, INA—Maj. Gen. Slavko Jovic, commander of the U.N. Iraq-Iran Military Observers Group (UNIIMOG) entrusted with supervising ceasefire between the two countries arrived in Baghdad today on a few days visit to Iraq.

The UNIIMOG commander's visit to Iraq comes within the frame of his shuttle visits between Baghdad and Tehran in implementation of the Security Council No. 598.

Damaged Ships Towed Away From Shatt al-'Arab

JN0103194589 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Basra, Mar. 1, INA—Iraqi technicians are engaged for the last three days in floating vessels and dhows and towing damaged ones away from the Shatt al-'Arab areas adjacent to the front of Basra.

Mr Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications today conferred here with officials in charge at the Iraqi State Enterprise for Ports on developing Shatt al-'Arab in implementation of the directives of President Saddam Husayn.

The project is part of a large-scale current work and activity to beautify and reconstruct the southern Iraqi port city of Basra within three months.

President Saddam Husayn paid several visits to Basra over the past few weeks to supervise the work of its reconstruction in a way compatible with its gallant steadfastness against the Iranian aggression.

IDF Kills 4 'Terrorists' in South Lebanon

TA0203131889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Israel Defense Forces this morning killed four terrorists in the security zone in southern Lebanon. Our soldiers sustained no casualties. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a paratroopers force that was on a patrol mission detected a squad of four terrorists about 5 km north of (Manur) Mountain in the western sector of the security zone. The four terrorists were killed in the ensuing exchanges of fire. [passage omitted]

Attack Under PLO 'Leadership'

TA0203144189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the pamphlets found on the bodies of the four terrorists who were killed early this morning in the security zone in southern Lebanon state that they had set out on this operation in the framework of the just struggle under the PLO's leadership. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Hecht] Five Palestinian terrorists made their way to Israel's northern border early this morning. Pamphlets found on their bodies explicitly described their objective: to capture and kill Jews in the Galilee. Four terrorists were killed in a clash with Israel Defense Forces [IDF] troops who were on a routine mission in the security zone, while the fifth managed to escape. Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, emphasized: They talked and made declarations in Algiers about peace and compromise, but here they are constantly trying to kill Jews.

[Peled] The incident in the security zone early this morning is yet another in the series of attempts by Palestinian squads trying to infiltrate Israeli territory. The squad ran into an IDF unit operating in the area and was exterminated.

The pamphlet I am holding in my hand mentions an attack in Israel aimed at taking hostages. This is a squad of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The pamphlet goes on to mention military activities to back up the political activities of the PLO leadership—that is what is written in this pamphlet.

[Hecht] Kalashnikov rifles, grenades, light antitank weapon missiles, and barbed wire were found near the bodies of the terrorists. The pamphlet's fine print says: We will continue to raise our weapons sky high. The just struggle being conducted by our people under the leadership of the PLO will not stop. [end recording]

Walker, Waldegrave Remarks Cited on PLO Attacks

JN0203113289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The United States has warned that it will halt its dialogue with the PLO if the latter gets involved in terrorist operations in the future. This warning came through Edward Walker, deputy assistant secretary of state, who stressed that the U.S. Administration will not accept attacks by the PLO and its factions against Israeli targets, whether military or civilian.

Walker explained that Washington considers Yasir 'Arafat responsible for stopping violence against Israel. He stressed that the U.S. Administration will not accept PLO attacks against Israel, which affect the dialogue between the United States and the PLO. He added that such recent attacks created great difficulties for Washington. Walker was speaking during a session for the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee in Washington last night.

Congressman Mel Levine said during the session that he has counted 13 terrorist operations by the PLO since 'Arafat pledged in Geneva to renounce violence.

William Waldgrave, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, has expressed his country's concern over sabotage attempts by Palestinian elements to infiltrate into northern Israel from southern Lebanon. He stressed in a news conference he held in Jerusalem yesterday evening that such attempts do not help the Palestinian cause and should be stopped.

Waldegrave Notes 'Changes' in PLO Attitude

TA0103155289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Report from Jerusalem by Mikha'el Birenhack]

[Text] Britain is not interested in anything that could harm Israel, British Minister of State William Waldegrave said today. Waldegrave, who arrived yesterday, is the guest of Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. After their meeting this morning the British visitor refused to directly address his meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat approximately 2 months, a meeting which elicited an Israeli protest.

[Begin Waldegrave recording in English] We believe that there have been changes on the Palestinian side which have been reflected in our contacts with them, but it's ultimately for Mr Netanyahu and his colleagues, who are accountable to their... [fading into superimposed Hebrew translation] [end recording]

Waldegrave stated that the British believe changes have taken place on the Palestinian side. This affects the British attitude toward the Palestinians. As to practical steps, however, this is up to Israel to carry out in accordance with its considerations.

The meeting with the deputy minister was described as a get-acquainted session intended for an exchange of views. Netanyahu wanted to show his guest a rock that hit a soldier in Gaza, but the exhibit was in the police laboratory for examination. The guest was therefore deprived of the opportunity to see this item.

Waldegrave leaves Israel for Jordan on Monday.

Bar Chairman: Popular Army Holding Soldier
JN0203132589 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Various telephone calls on the kidnapped soldier have been received. Anonymous callers telephoned AFP, Voice of Israel, and also lawyer Fayiz Abu Rahmah, chairman of the Gaza Bar Association. Our correspondent in the south, Hasan Abu Zayid, telephoned Abu Rahmah to inquire about the call he received:

[Begin recording] [Abu Zayid] Lawyer Abu Rahmah, good evening.

[Abu Rahmah] Good evening.

[Abu Zayid] Will you tell us about the telephone call you received yesterday?

[Abu Rahmah] At about 0900 yesterday, a person telephoned me saying he represents the Palestinian Popular Army and that this Army has chosen the ambassadors of Egypt and France, as well as me, to hold negotiations with the Israeli Government on the release of the kidnapped soldier. Their demands are as follows: First, releasing 310 prisoners from among those held before the start of the intifadah [uprising]; second, releasing all the prisoners held during the intifadah; paying 5,000 Jordanan dinars in compensation to the owners of every demolished house; and fourth, paying 3,000 Jordanian dinars compensation to everyone killed by the Israeli Defense Forces. He said that they have a 9-minute videocassette recording by the soldier. The first 3 minutes are addressed to the Israeli Government, the next 3 to the commander of his unit, and the rest to his familiy. He said the videocassette was given to two international figures, and that these figures were asked not to show the cassette unless Israel shows on its television footage of the raid against Tunis during which the late Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was assassinated.

[Abu Zayid] Yesterday you met with the commander of the southern region. Did you inform him about the call?

[Abu Rahmah] Yes. After the meeting, I told him and the head of the Civil Administration about the call. He said that he wanted proof that they are actually holding the soldier. At about 1500, the same person telephoned me and asked me what happened. I told him that proof of their holding the soldier is needed. He said that they cannot give proof for security reasons. He added: But you have to believe us; we are 100 percent honest. The caller then hung up and did not telephone again.

[Abu Zayid] Thank you.

[Abu Rahmah] You are welcome. [end recording]

Gorbachev To Visit Damascus in 'Next Few Weeks'
TA0203063089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is to visit Damascus in the next few weeks, marking yet another acceleration in Soviet involvement in the Middle East, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

According to reports reaching Jerusalem from Western sources, details of the visit were worked out in the Syrian capital during Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit there last week. The visit will be the first by the Soviet leader to the area.

It is unclear yet whether Gorbachev will make stops in any other Middle Eastern capitals.

The visit, analysts in Jerusalem said last night, is aimed at strengthening the recently-strained Soviet-Syrian alliance, and at advancing Soviet attempts to bring about a reconciliation between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. During his Middle East tour, Shevardnadze failed to arrange a meeting between 'Arafat and Al-Asad.

Relations between Damascus and Moscow have been tense lately, due to the Soviet refusal to supply Syria with all of the sophisticated weapons it wants, and Moscow's assertion that it will not support Syrian belligerency toward Israel.

Syria is unable to repay the approximately $12 billion it owes the Soviet Union, and Shevardnadze made no headway on this matter, sources in Jerusalem said. The Soviet Union appears to have given up any hope of repayment, and a visit by Gorbachev is interpreted here as giving an official stamp of approval to writing off the Syrian debt.

The high-profile attempt to reconcile Al-Asad and 'Arafat reinforces the analysis given here of Shevardnadze's visit, which says that Moscow is putting the PLO at the centre of its Middle East strategy, and that the Soviets are concerned that strains with Damascus could induce Al-Asad to try to play a limited American option.

The emphasis on the PLO found expression in Shevardnadze's speech last week in Cairo, in which he demanded that Israel start a dialogue with the organization as a precondition to resumption of full relations between Jerusalem and Moscow.

Arens-Shevardnadze Meeting Examined

JN2302175489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 23 Feb 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: There is no doubt that the meeting in Cairo yesterday between the Soviet and Israeli foreign ministers represents another prominent step toward the normalization of relations between the Soviet Union and Israel. We can safely say that this normalization entered an advanced stage yesterday and that the issue of effecting this normalization has become merely one of timing. Nothing remains other than for Moscow to choose the moment that suits it, as it is the party that initiated the diplomatic rupture in 1967. Hence, it is the party that must act to end this rupture, just as it acted to arrange the Cairo meeting yesterday between Shevardnadze and Arens.

Among other things, this meeting resulted in an agreement between the two sides to continue Soviet-Israeli contacts at the foreign ministers and other levels. The two sides have also agreed to form joint work committees involving political experts.

What is significant in this regard is that Shevardnadze has described his meeting with Arens using positive terms and summed up the meeting saying: We cannot say that we have managed to reach a solution to all problems. However, we have not expected to do that. One would have to be naive to expect such an eventuality.

Arens said: The Soviet Union and Israel have established a basis for understanding of the stands adopted by the two sides.

Objective observers might agree that the Soviet Union may need to normalize its relations more than Israel or that the Soviet Union is now in a hurry to normalize its ties with Israel because it is concerned with playing a bigger role in Middle East affairs and in contributing to the peacemaking process in our region. Objectively and realistically speaking, the Soviet Union cannot play the role of honest broker in the Arab-Israeli conflict as long as the rupture with Israel is maintained or unless it wins the confidence of the two parties to the conflict as regards its honesty and objectivity.

If Shevardnadze said in Cairo yesterday that there can be no peace in the Middle East without the Soviet Union, it can also be said that there can be no real and effective Soviet contribution to the peacemaking process in the Middle East region without a total normalization of relations between the Soviet Union and Israel. At any rate, the normal and friendly ties maintained between any two countries is not a favor granted by this country to the other. No, it is something that serves the interests of the two countries and peoples. Many Kremlin leaders, headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, have publicly admitted without equivocation or beating around the bush that the rupture with Israel in 1967 was a mistake by the Soviet Government. They have affirmed that this rupture cannot continue, as it is an abnormality that burdens the normal course of international relations.

Possibility of Outlawing Islamic Movement Viewed

TA0103120489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Alignment Knesset Member [MK] Ra'anan Kohen has requested that the prime minister examine the legal possibility of outlawing the Islamic Movement. Speaking to our correspondent Yo'el Dar, MK Kohen has said that this movement does not recognize Israel's existence, as was exemplified by its boycott of the Knesset elections. It is inconceivable, said MK Kohen, that a movement that represents Khomeyniism and a policy of exploiting religion for political purposes would be a legal movement in Israel.

The Islamic Movement scored great achievements in the local elections, mainly in the Triangle villages, where it won the post of head of the local councils in Kafr Qasim and Umm al-Fahm, and gained representation in other local councils. The Islamic Movement at present has almost 40 representatives in various councils throughout Israel.

Minister Ehud Olmert, who is in charge of Arab affairs in Israel, is also worried by the rise in the Islamic Movement's electoral power. According to him, Israeli Arabs should be concerned by this particular movement because it does not seek solutions for their problems; rather, it was formed as a protest movement.

Islamic Leader on 'Success'

TA0203074289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Telephone interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Israeli Islamic Movement, by Arye Golan and Arye Gus—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning, Shaykh 'Abdallah.

[Darwish] Good morning.

[Golan] First, I would like to ask you about your attitude to the State of Israel and Zionism?

[Darwish] First and foremost, we are citizens of the State of Israel, which is a known fact. That means we publicly and vocally recognize the State of Israel.

[Gus] Shaykh 'Abdallah, your actions in the villages are well known. Nevertheless, your past involves activities against the state. What is the measure of your involvement in the state?

[Darwish] I think that can be said about each person, even each politician, in the Middle East. Ask any politician in the State of Israel about his political past, about whether he was involved in an armed struggle.

[Gus] We are talking about a security record.

[Darwish] Yes, the question is whether or not they participated in an armed struggle in their past. All politicians participated in an armed struggle. In our opinion, the struggle is meant to serve one's people. When it appears that it can be done in a different way—through legal, political means—the methods change. I believe that the Islamic Movement serves the Arab citizens through political and legal means. Over the past 4 or 5 years, we have announced publicly that we act lawfully and are not prepared to violate the law. I have heard what is being said about us. I heard minutes ago that we serve Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] and Iran, and who knows what else. I would like to tell my colleague Salim Jubran [New Communist List secretary in Nazareth] that we have existed in Israel since the early seventies.

[Golan] Jubran spoke about growing orthodoxy. Are you a Khomeynist party?

[Darwish] I do not accept that definition, because we started out in the seventies before the world recognized Khomeyni.

[Gus] Will you now, in the wake of your success in the municipal elections, run in the Knesset elections?

[Darwish] It is too early to speak about the Knesset, but I would like to say one thing about that. We will consider the matter and see whether there is any point in running for the Knesset; then we will do so, with the help of God.

[Golan] Which means you are not writing it off. Thank you very much, Shaykh 'Abdallah.

Alleged Czechoslovak Spy Met With Israelis

TA0203094489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Mar 89 p 12

[Report by David Horowitz]

[Text] London—Czechoslovak Erwin Van Haarlem, standing trial here for spying, met with Israeli Embassy officials and dined with former chief of general staff Moshe Levi, THE JERUSALEM POST learned yesterday.

Van Haarlem, 43, who passed himself off as a Dutch Jewish art dealer, allegedly operated as a spy here for 13 years, infiltrating Soviet Jewry groups and collecting information on companies involved in "Star Wars" defence research.

He was arrested in his London home last April when Special Branch officers burst into his flat to find him allegedly in the process of receiving and decoding a message from his Prague controllers.

According to information received by THE POST yesterday, Van Haarlem for three years was a member of the National Council for Soviet Jewry, received the group's regular mailings, designed posters and pamphlets for the organization, and even visited refuseniks in the Soviet Union after being briefed by the group's Soviet Jewry experts.

THE POST also learned that Van Haarlem was introduced to Israeli Embassy officials dealing with Soviet Jewry.

The Old Bailey court, where Van Haarlem's trial is now into its third day, has been told that the alleged spy attended a lavish Labour Friends of Israel dinner in the House of Commons in 1987, and was introduced to a number of Jewish, English and European dignitaries.

He even pledged 20 pounds towards the Labour Friends' fund-raising efforts. It is understood that Levi was among the guests at the dinner.

Van Haarlem made a number of trips to see refuseniks in the Soviet Union, THE POST has been told, and joined the Conservative Friends of Israel, paying a 5 pound membership fee.

It is believed that part of his task here was to collect information on refuseniks, as well as on those campaigning here on their behalf. He is said to have been active from 1975 to 1988.

The Dutch name and identity were allegedly provided by his Prague controllers, and he persisted in using the name when confronted by Joanna Van Haarlem, a Dutch woman who took him for her long-lost son.

Sources in the Soviet Jewry campaign told THE POST yesterday that they had no suspicions about him, and that he could have infiltrated higher into their organization had he chosen to do so.

He was introduced to the National Council by a fellow art dealer who was already a member, and was immediately accepted because he was known to have been active in the inter-denominational Soviet Jewry group Conscience.

Czechoslovak Theater Troupe Arrives for Tour

TA0103184589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] This afternoon 42 members of the Czechoslovak theater group, Laterna Magica, arrived in Israel for the first visit of its kind since relations between the two countries were cut 21 years ago. Laterna Magica, known for its combination of circus acts, film, and music without words, will give three performances in Israel's major cities.

Hungarian Transport Minister Arrives on Visit

TA0103093889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Mar 89 p 8

[Text] Tel Aviv—Hungary's minister of communication, transport and construction, Andras Derzsi, arrived here yesterday to sign an air traffic agreement between the countries.

Under the terms of the agreement, El Al and Malek Airlines, Hungary's national carrier, will start regular weekly flights between Tel Aviv and Budapest next month. This agreement represents another step designed to strengthen commercial ties between the two countries.

Derzsi, here for a three day visit, was met at the airport by Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav. Last month, Hungary's agriculture minister visited here.

The air traffic agreement is seen as yet another step in the expanding bilateral relations.

Israel and Hungary set up interest offices in 1988, and top Hungarian officials have said that full diplomatic relations would be resumed this year.

Air Traffic Agreement Signed

TA0103140789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] This morning Israel and Hungary signed an air traffic agreement allowing El Al to land in Budapest and the Hungarian airline Malek to land at Ben-Gurion Airport. The agreement was signed by Andras Derzsi, the visiting Hungarian minister of communication, transport, and construction, and his Israeli counterpart Moshe Qatzav.

Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the first El Al flight is scheduled to land in Budapest at the end of this month. Both companies plan one flight a week at the present time and two flights in the summer.

It was also agreed that El Al will be allowed to land at other locations in the Eastern Bloc countries along the route to Budapest.

The Hungarian minister relayed to his Israeli counterpart an official invitation to visit Hungary, which Minister Qatzav accepted.

Nicaraguan Spokesman on Restoration of Ties

TA1702164089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government says the warmest possible relations exist between the Nicaraguan and Israeli peoples, but diplomatic relations between the two countries would only be restored when the Government of Israel showed it was ready to abide strictly by international law and UN resolutions.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporter Gid'on Remez his country hopes the voice of reason will prevail in the Middle East as has happened in Central America with the signing of the cease-fire between contras and his government.

Danish Agriculture Minister, Delegation Visit

TA2802054989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The Danish agriculture minister arrived last night on a 4-day visit to Israel. He is accompanied by a large parliamentary agriculture committee delegation. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balselboim reports that the purpose of the visit is to study Israeli agriculture's achievements and to probe ways for cooperation in that field.

Shomron Testimony Details 'Legality' of Beatings

TA0203113889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 89 pp 1, 4

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of General Staff, testified for 3 consecutive hours yesterday in the trial of the four Giv'ati Brigade soldiers charged with beating a resident of the Jabalyah refugee camp to death in August 1988.

Prosecutor 'Uzi 'Atzmon asked the chief of staff who gave the order—and whether one was actually given—to use beatings as a means of punishment and deterrence. Lt Gen Shomron replied: "If an order is issued to use beating for punitive purposes and not in the course of an ongoing event, its legality must be probed."

Later in his prolonged testimony, the chief of staff said: "The Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] were given the task of controlling rioters and restoring order in the territories. This is a task the IDF has never faced before. The chief of staff, therefore, felt it to be his duty to issue a letter to the commanders including behavioral guidelines for officers and soldiers while dispersing rioters, quelling riots, and apprehending those resisting arrest. This type of activity is difficult and complex. Handling such situations, therefore, posed very difficult problems that

resulted from events in the field. Such complexity resulted in mistakes being made by both soldiers and officers—some of whom do not hold low ranks. They are, however, the best soldiers and commanders we have."

Answering a question by the chief military prosecutor, the chief of staff said that the letter he issued to commanders and soldiers contains four principles referring to the use of reasonable force in dispersing demonstrations and apprehending those resisting arrest. The letter does not say that the use of force is to be used as punishment or once a mission has been completed.

The chief of staff was asked numerous questions concerning the detention and beating of suspected rioters. He stressed, contrary to testimonies of commanders who spoke before him, that a rioter may be beaten in the course of an ongoing event, because the orders clearly say that a suspect is not to be beaten once he has been detained.

The chief of staff also noted the soldier's use of judgment and said that "once an event is over, what happens is a matter of the soldier's discretion. This is a subjective matter that must stand the test of reasonableness." Referring to the order to use beatings as a means of deterrence, Lt Gen Shomron said that if this deterrence is outside the context of an event, it is illegal and the commander should be held responsible for it. [passage omitted]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Arabs Attempt Abduction

TA0103195889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Two Arab residents of the territories this afternoon tried to stab and abduct an Israeli who was traveling in the Jordan Rift Valley. The Israeli managed to escape and call for help. 'Ido Shargil, our correspondent in the territories, reports details on the incident:

The incident occurred at 1700 when a vehicle transporting two Israeli residents of the settlement of Beqa'ot in the Jordan Rift Valley stopped at Jiftlik junction. When one of the Israelis got out of the car, an Arab vehicle pulled up beside him. The Israeli asked the Arabs what they wanted, and they attacked him. One tried to stab him while the other attempted to abduct him. The Israeli managed to escape. He contacted the local military headquarters to inform them of the incident. The army quickly set up barricades nearby and began searching the area to locate the assailants. The Arabs abandoned their vehicle and tried to find refuge in a nearby building. They were located and detained following a brief manhunt. They were found in possession of a knife and binoculars that they used for observation. The two were identified by the Israelis whom they had tried to abduct.

Soldier Wounded by Stone

TA0103210089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] An Israeli soldier in the area of Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip was injured this evening by a stone thrown at the military vehicle in which he was riding. The soldier sustained a slight injury and was transferred to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

Searches were conducted in the area and several suspects were detained.

Gaza Strip Arab Killed

TA0203052689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] A 24-year-old man was shot and killed last night in the Tuffah neighborhood of Gaza when he tried to attack an Israeli soldier with a knife. The incident occurred during arrests carried out by the Israel Defense Forces [IDF]. A local inhabitant tried to stab one of the soldiers; a second soldier fired and killed him. The IDF clamped a curfew on the Tuffah neighborhood, and the curfew on Bayt Hanun continues. In Judaea and Samaria, the curfews on Nabulus and 'Azzun continue.

Civil Administration Closes Office, Opens Others

TA0103194089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria is closing its office in the town of Salfit and has instructed its residents to conduct their activities at the Civil Administration office in Qalqilyah. The Civil Administration says the step is part of a plan to improve services in the area south of Tulkarm. Our reporter adds that Civil Administration offices have been opened lately in the villages of Tubas in Samaria, and in Abu Dis near Bethlehem. Additional Civil Administration offices are scheduled to open in other villages as well.

Arab Media 'Jumped at' State Department Report

JN1002172489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 10 Feb 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] The U.S. State Department report about human rights violations in the administered territories has had repercussions in the United States and Israel, which I won't go into just now. These reactions are being widely covered by the news media. It must be said, however, that the report lacks objectivity and balance.

It is striking how Arab media jumped at the report and sought to exploit it for farcical anti-Israel propaganda. The frenzied information drive and crying over the rights of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza emanate from the news media of the very Arab rulers who

have Palestinian blood on their hands. It may be unrealistic to expect minimal objectivity and restraint from Arab media people, who seem to perceive their supreme mission as seizing every chance to knock Israel. It is not unlikely, however, that these Arab media people must have heard the adage that those who live in glass houses must not throw stones.

Tragically, all the reports issued over the years by serious, sober international bodies point to the fact that Arab leaders have been riding roughshod over the most basic and human rights of labor and management alike—merchants, civil servants, and journalists. These have had their basic rights trampled underfoot to such an extent that the freedom of the Arab individual in his home country now counts as a luxury.

Even more distressing is that the majority of Arab leaders have, over the past decades, acted and still act as if the Arab individual were their cheapest commodity. Their record testifies that they will sacrifice whatever is necessary to keep them in power. They will sacrifice tens and hundreds of thousands of their countrymen without a scruple to advance their vain glories, imperial dreams, and self-aggrandizement or to satisfy a passing personal whim. We have no need to dwell on human rights violations in the various Arab regimes. It is as well, however, to remind the Syrian information pundits, who have led the farcical chorus trumpeting the U.S. State Department document, of Amnesty International's annual report chronicling the ugliest, grisliest practices of the tyrannical Syrian regime against the Syrian people. Still fresh on our minds are the horrific details of the Ba'thist regime's barbaric atrocities, which in one instance alone, in 1982, claimed the lives of at least 10,000, and maybe as many as 25,000, in Hamah. Amnesty International's report also featured hair-raising details of torture methods developed by the Ba'thist regime, not to mention the tactics employed by Syria's terror apparatuses to soften up the tenacity of political detainees, including bringing their wives and threatening to rape them right in front of them.

And last, in order to dispel any faulty impression, we must emphasize that all of the details contained in this "observation" about human right abuses in Arab countries are not meant to cover up or justify any isolated cases of human rights violations in the Bank and Gaza Strip by the Israeli authorities. Significantly, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has declared that Israel feels sorry for anyone who has been injured or otherwise victimized. Israel, however, knows only too well that it is impossible to bring violence and rioting to an end without recourse to strict measures. The prime minister has also stressed that IDF soldiers who have been subjected to constant provocation act firmly but apply such humanitarian criterea that are matchless anywhere in the Western world.

Muslim Brotherhood Reportedly Meets in Jordan

JN1602160889 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 16 Feb 89

[From the "Brevity Is the Soul of Wit" program by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] The Syrian Muslim Brotherhood and those opposing the Al-Asad regime are once again holding unannounced meetings in Jordan. The details of this news report were given by the Paris-based magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, which said that lengthy and secret meetings are being held in Amman by the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood leaders who called their grouping "The Reform Committee" headed by 'Abd al-Hadi Muslih.

The magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI spoke in a telephone conversation to the committee leader who said that serious efforts are being made to elect a new comptroller general for the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood. The committee leader appealed to the Muslim Brotherhood members to unite to save Syria from the hands of the corrupt who have been nursed on corruption, distanced themselves from the pursuit of ideals, and killed values in the name of reform, as he put it. He added that the souls must unite with the aim of saving Syria and vindicating right.

Radio Criticizes King Husayn's CNN Interview

JN2602163289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1440 GMT 26 Feb 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: Jordan's monarch, King Husayn, has once again stressed that settling the Arab-Israeli dispute does not need new peace initiatives. This came in an interview conducted with him by the U.S. television network CNN in Tokyo at the end of last week.

Asked his opinion of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal on holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to produce a Palestinian leadership to participate in peace talks, King Husayn said: We do not believe that this is a proposal, but another attempt to divide the Palestinians in the occupied territories and in the diaspora. King Husayn's statements are really surprising and raise more than one question. The strange thing in his statements does not lie only in casting doubts on the essence of the aforementioned Israeli proposal, which is basically aimed at reaching an honorable and realistic solution to the complex of Palestinian representation at any peace forum in which Israel agrees to participate.

The Israeli proposal is aimed at electing a Palestinian leadership through free elections to gain legitimate representative power and to be qualified to enter peaceful negotiations with Israel. Without doubt, King Husayn

realizes that it is almost impossible for the Israeli Government to agree to sit with the organizations of terrorism and sabotage, whose hands are stained with the blood of innocent children, women, and unarmed civilians among the Israeli citizens and the sons of the Jewish people abroad.

King Husayn's statements are really strange because they accuse the aforementioned Israeli proposal of seeking to divide the Palestinians, while King Husayn has forgotten—or wanted to forget—a well-known established fact that cannot be ignored. This fact is that he, King Husayn himself, made a practical and legal step to divide the Palestinians through his decision last July to disengage legal and administrative ties between his kingdom and the West Bank. It is also known that despite all forms of understanding and coordination between King Husayn and 'Arafat's organization, one of the abstruse and complicated problems that has remained unresolved between the two sides is the issue of defining the identity and status of the Palestinians residing in Jordan, who constitute the majority of the citizens of the Hashemite Kingdom.

King Husayn stresses that the Palestinians residing in Jordan enjoy full Jordanian citizenship and that he and his government reject dual representation in this regard. However, Yasir 'Arafat and his aides did not conceal their dissatisfaction, because King Husayn's stand conflicts with their allegations or refutes their claims that their organization is the sole and legitimate representative of all Palestinians, wherever they may be.

At any rate, we should say that the automatic opposition that King Husayn and other Arab rulers show regarding any new peace initiative, proposal, or idea to reactivate the peace march in our region, especially if this idea or proposal is made by Israel—this automatic Arab opposition means one of two things, or both together. First, it means an intellectual straitjacket; second, it means adherence to the idea of an international conference. Such adherence means a deadlock and leading peace efforts to a stalemate or leaving them at a dead end.

AL-FAJR Comments on Khalaf Peace Statement

TA2402161489 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
24 Feb 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Strategic Peace"]

[Text] Last Tuesday, Israelis listened to a PLO leader, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad], when he delivered a statement on videotape to a symposium at the International Center for Peace in Jerusalem, attended by delegates from various countries. This "direct audition" was not the only unique event, but what Abu Iyad said to the Israeli public and officials represented an important event in the context of the Palestinian peace initiative on one hand, and the Israeli Government's traditional and continuing rejection of this initiative on the other.

The Abu Iyad's lucid statement confirms that the Palestinian peace initiative is not a tactic for a particular time but a strategic approach based on the right of two nations, the Palestinian and the Israeli, to live side by side "without a Berlin wall or any other wall dividing them," and to live under a just and comprehensive peace after ending the cycles of war, disaster, and calamity in this region.

Israeli concerns, on the other hand, have been, and still are, based on the assumption and fear that the Palestinian initiative is the first of a series of stages that will end with the annihilation of Israel. In most of its propaganda campaigns, the Israeli Government had specifically linked this "transitional phase" to brother Abu Iyad. Then came his clear and frank statement, directly addressed to all Israelis, to refute these assumptions and fears and to underscore the sincerity of the outstretched Palestinian hand carrying an olive branch for both nations and states on this land.

According to the text carried by news agencies, Abu Iyad talked about peace negotiations and direct Palestinian - Israeli meetings preceding the proposed international conference for a final and fundamental settlement. He espoused the need to expedite conference so that more disasters, calamities, and dangers would not accumulate in its path. He mentioned the present opportunity and the required guarantees for the protection of all. What will the Israelis say? After all this, can Shamir's government continue to declare its fear of this peace through Foreign Minister Moshe Arens?

U.S. Veto in UN, Support for Israel Criticized

TA2202192089 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
19 Feb 89 p 7

[Editorial: "The Reasons for the U.S. Veto"]

[Excerpts] The use of the veto by the United States against a draft resolution in the Security Council condemning Israeli practices in the occupied territories clearly proves that the Bush administration lacks a defined Middle East policy. Apparently, the new U.S. Administration is continuing the same approach as the administration of former President Ronald Reagan, which was marked by a total bias toward Israel.

The U.S. veto came after the release of the U.S. State Department report, which detailed Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian territories. This veto confirms that the United States will not take any measure that

might harm Israel diplomatically, and will not use any practical means to pressure Israel on its continued occupation and escalation of its practices.

While the U.S. State Department report called on Israel to abide by the fourth Geneva convention of 1949 and The Hague convention of 1907, the U.S. veto in the Security Council nullified these conventions by attempting to establish equality between the occupation and the Palestinian people in the occupied land. [passage omitted]

The remarks by the U.S. delegate, Herbert Okun, after the veto, however, represent a greater danger than the veto itself. He said: "These acts by the Palestinians, just as those by the Israelis, are unacceptable." One glance at these remarks clearly indicates the level of prejudice of U.S. foreign policy standards on the Palestinian problem.

Balance and equality in the U.S. style clearly reflect the state of confusion and chaos prevailing in Washington decision centers. On one hand, the U.S. State Department declares its avidity for the strategic partnership between Israel and the United States, and on the other hand it tries to depict itself to the world as a peacemaker.

As far as Washington is concerned, strategic partnership means realization of Israel's political and diplomatic aspirations, while peacemaking means seeking a balanced equation that takes into consideration the interests and goals of all the parties to the conflict. Combining the two is an impossible process. Bearing this fact in mind, if the Bush administration continues the approach of the previous administration, it will ultimately find itself in a vicious cycle from which it would be impossible to emerge. The entire world is aware that a vicious cycle means violence, counterviolence, and bloodshed. These are the same reasons that pushed the international community to move in a bid to put an end to the cycle of Arab-Israeli conflict.

U.S. Urged To Alter 'Biased' Israeli Policy

TA2402182789 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
24 Feb 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Peace Is What Is Required"]

[Text] At his news conference in Cairo yesterday, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat reaffirmed the Palestinian position that calls for establishing a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the region through an international peace conference convened according to the pattern prepared by the United Nations and under its auspices.

The Palestinian leader referred to the PLO's readiness to enter into direct or indirect negotiations with the Israelis under the aegis of this conference, which the entire world agrees offers the best chance for a solution, affirming that the talks he held with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze were extremely significant. This significance is underscored by the Soviet insistence on not leaving the political and diplomatic effort in the Middle East as a monopoly of the U.S. Administration, whose steps are so slow that they reinforce the belief that this administration is interested in prolonging the conflict by providing all means of support and assistance to its minor ally, which is still defying all international initiatives and efforts aimed at establishing peace in the region.

For his part, in response to U.S. attempts to diminish the Soviet role in the peace process in the region, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze affirmed that the U.S. Administration cannot resolve the issue alone. Perhaps the current visit by the Soviet minister to the region confirms the intensive presence of the Soviets in the region, just as it confirms the impossibility of reaching a solution to the crisis without a Soviet role.

It is noteworthy that at a time when the entire world is welcoming and backing the Palestinian peace initiative, Israel's leaders are reiterating their intransigent positions that reject peace. This intransigence would not have existed had it not been for the U.S. stance that overlooks Israeli perpetrations. This stance believes that war and peace in the region is a U.S. responsibility and allows the Soviets only a very limited role.

The U.S. stance that backs the Israeli position rejecting all international peace initiatives, means that the peace resistance operation in the region is not only an Israeli mission, but also a joint U.S.-Israeli mission. This makes the U.S. unqualified to play the role of a mediator trying to establish peace, because such a role necessarily requires a minimal dissimilarity in positions between the U.S. Administration and Israel, while the established fact is that the U.S. position is totally identical to the Israeli position. This requires the European states and all peace-lovers in the world to shoulder their responsibilities and exert pressure on the U.S. Administration to force it to alter its biased policy, which favors Israel.

Soviet Role in Peace Efforts Examined

TA1602192189 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
15 Feb 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Peace Efforts Between the Soviet and U.S. Positions"]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's planned visit to the Middle East at the end of this week is extremely significant. He intends to visit Damascus, Amman, Baghdad, Cairo, and Tehran, and to meet with the Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat. This visit signifies a change in Soviet foreign policy whose aim is for Moscow to play a more active role in the Middle East peace process. The visit has been postponed several times: the last time was after the presentation of the Palestinian peace initiatives and following the U.S. elections.

There is no doubt that the climate of international detente in the wake of the arms reduction agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, the superpowers' agreement to resolve regional conflicts by peaceful means, the thawing of Soviet-Israeli relations and the Soviet-Israel dialogue, enables the Soviet Union to play a more effective role in the peace process.

A realistic look at the course of events shows that during the past year Moscow not only began moving away from a position of absolute support for the Palestinian position, but also exerted pressure to effect a change toward moderation and pragmatism in this position. This gives the Soviet Union credibility as a neutral mediator in the conflict. We would have welcomed this Soviet contribution if Washington had moved away from the Israeli position in return, thus allowing the two superpowers to reach a solution to the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian problem.

Therefore, Washington is also required to pressure Israel to moderate its positions and accept the international will and the global peace approach. If the positions of Washington and Moscow were to represent that of a "mediator," then we would be laying the foundations for a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. What we are calling for does not stem from dreams, but from the painful reality in the region. If the conflict is not contained and the fire not extinguished, the blazing conflict will explode into a war.

Washington always proceeds from the premise that it is Israel's ally and friend and is committed to Israel's security. We are not asking Washington to abandon Israel, to leave it all "alone." Washington must realize, however, that its support for Israel's obstinacy and intransigence will in the long run harm Israel itself.

If Washington is serious about settling the conflict it should not waste the present golden opportunity for peace. The Soviet peace moves in the region refutes all allegations by Washington and Tel Aviv that Moscow seeks to prolong and escalate the conflict.

Today it is very clear that the opposite is true. The Palestinians, backed by the Arab nation and the entire world, including the socialist countries and the Soviet Union, are in one corner, and the United States and Israel are in the opposite one.

Israel's continued rejection, with Washington's support, of the international conference and the principle of exchanging land for peace will mean the failure of the Soviet initiative and the end of Palestinian moderation.

Rabin Election Plans Aim To Split Palestinians
TA2202185989 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 19 Feb 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Rabin's Plans Will Not Deceive Our People"]

[Text] The talk by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Israeli television not only did not lack a language of threats and promises, but ridiculed the Palestinian-U.S. and Palestinian-European dialogue, affirming that the United States will not impose a settlement on Israel and that Europe cannot have any impact.

Rabin claimed that his recent plan, which calls for holding elections in the occupied areas, is the only way to find a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Rabin refuses to deal with the PLO, refuses to withdraw from the occupied territories, and refuses to grant Palestinians their legitimate rights.

The question is: What purpose is served by these elections that Rabin is proposing? If he means by this to create an alternative leadership to the PLO, he is dreaming. And if he believes that the elections will produce elements who will accept less than what the PLO accepts, then he is daydreaming.

The principle of elections is acceptable to all Palestinians, whether inside or outside. The disagreement is under what circumstances will these elections be held.

If they are free democratic elections, they cannot be held under occupation and the Israeli army, which controls the occupied territories in which the elections are held. Thus, the Palestinian demand that the elections be held under UN supervision.

As for Rabin's suggestion that he will withdraw the army from the areas on election day, there are several reasons for rejecting this proposal. Rabin, who has lived in Israel, where there is a democratic process and free elections, knows that an election occurs not only on voting day; it is a comprehensive process that begins with an election campaign before the voting and continues with the selection of candidates.

Elections are not merely a voting process, but a presentation of programs to the people and an offering of choices to the voter. On election day, the voter will give his vote to the party he prefers.

Rabin is not unaware that there are scores of thousands of Palestinian detainees in prisons who should be released as a first step so that they may not be deprived of the vote. Moreover, there are key Palestinian figures who have been deported during the past 15 months of the uprising who have the right to return, not only to vote, but also to run in the elections.

To what extent is Rabin ready to respond positively to these principles so that there will be fair and democratic elections? Or does Rabin only wish to distract the Palestinian people with the formalities of elections?

Organizing elections in the occupied land faces many obstacles, in addition to the fact that democracy is inconsistent with occupation. Elections can constitute only part of a comprehensive program agreed upon to

resolve the Palestinian problem. Elections are a means for having the people reach a specific goal, but the purpose of elections is something else.

It is very clear from Rabin's talk that he rejects a Palestinian state, the PLO, and the international conference.

Hence, what good will these elections do, except if the objective is to create internal rivalries and split the domestic front in the occupied land?

Our people, with their alertness and national sense, are more awake than to accept such fragmentary plans.

Rabin's Plans Denounced

TA1702170989 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Feb 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "An Exposed Ploy"]

[Text] It seems that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has still not learned a lesson from the failure suffered by his old-new plans that he recently proposed. Through these plans, he seeks to depict himself as a "promoter of peace" and as one who is eager to secure stability and security for the region; simultaneously, however, his soldiers are escalating their suppressive measures and practices against Palestinian residents in the occupied territories. These measures are being condemned and denounced by all peace-loving countries and forces in the world.

Yesterday, in yet another new attempt aimed at resuming his failed offensive to stop the growing Palestinian tide inside and outside the occupied land—the practical translation of which we are observing in the increasing support by all countries of the world for the Palestinian cause as well as in the moves being undertaken by Europe and some great powers to prepare the climate for convening an international peace conference—Yitzhaq Rabin renewed his call to the residents in the occupied territories to sit at the negotiating table, pointing out that he will present another political plan after the return of Shamir and Arens from Europe and the United States.

Although Rabin tried to give a new tone to his speech, it still became stuck in the same square rejected by the Palestinians. This is because it is impossible for Palestinians in the occupied territories to agree to negotiate in place of the PLO. Rabin and all Israeli leaders are still opposing the PLO and refusing to open a dialogue with it.

No one will accept or agree to deal with the solutions Rabin is currently presenting or will present in the future as long as they stick to the same positions rejected by the Palestinians. Rabin has often heard from many a Palestinian resident in the occupied territories that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative and that it is impossible to deal with his plans without recognition of the basic demands of the Palestinian people, leading to the achievement of their legitimate rights.

While we affirm our rejection of Rabin's ideas and old plans, and perceive in them an attempt to extricate Israeli policy from its deep-rooted impasse, we also affirm that there is no way of resolving the crisis except by recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights and by sitting at the international peace conference table, as this provides the best opportunity for establishing peace in the region.

72 AIDS Cases Diagnosed; 47 Deaths Reported

TA2702155989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] As of the beginning of this month, 72 AIDS cases have been diagnosed in Israel, of whom 47 have died. The number of AIDS cases in Israel has doubled in the last 2 years. Approximately 500 carriers had been diagnosed by the beginning of 1989, but the number is estimated to be higher because of those who have not undergone check-ups because they do not suspect that they are carrying the antibodies.

King Husayn Returns From Hirohito Funeral 1 Mar
JN0103175989 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpt] His majesty the king returned home this afternoon after attending the funeral of the late Japanese Emperor Hirohito in Tokyo last Friday [24 February]. [passage omitted]

Socialist International Officials Arrive 28 Feb
JN2802164489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] (Hans Jurgen Wischnewski), vice chairman of the Socialist International, arrived in Amman today on a 2-day official visit to Jordan at the head of a Socialist International delegation. In an arrival statement to the press, (Wischnewski) said that the purpose of the delegation's Middle East tour was to gather facts on developments in the region, to learn regional views on the peace process, and to study ways to support peace and an international peace conference.

He said the delegation's visit to Jordan has a special importance because of Jordan's role in the peace process. The tour will also cover Syria, Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. He added that the delegation had visited Tunisia, where it met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He described the talks as positive and important.

He also said that during the delegation's visit to the occupied territories, its members will meet with Arab citizens to learn about the situation there, and added that a report on the visit and its outcome will be submitted to the members of the Socialist International during their meeting in Vienna next week.

Meet Al-Qasim, Al-Rifa'i
JN0103130089 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, today received a delegation from Socialist International currently visiting Jordan as part of a fact-finding tour in the Middle East. At the meeting, the crown prince said that emphasis should be given to the essence of the Palestinian problem and the situation under which the Palestinians in the occupied territories live that resulted in the outbreak of the uprising that attracted world attention to the agony of the Palestinians under occupation.

Earlier, the Prime Minister Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i today discussed latest developments in the Middle East and efforts to bring about a just and permanent settlement to the conflict with the Socialist International delegation.

The two sides agreed on the importance of convening an international Middle East peace conference under United Nations auspices and with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO. Mr al-Rifa'i emphasized the role [the] Socialist International can play to push the peace process forward and to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. The head of the delegation, Mr (Hans Jurgen Wischnewski), commended Jordan's role in promoting peace-making to achieve stability in the region.

During a separate meeting, the foreign minister, Mr Marwan al-Qasim, reviewed with the delegation Jordan's position towards the Middle East crisis and the Kingdom's efforts to reach a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict through the international peace conference. Mr al-Qasim asserted the need to convince Israel to abide by the UN Security Council Resolution 242 and an Israeli withdrawal from the territories it occupied back in 1967.

Prices of 'Basic Commodities' To Be Maintained
JN0103184189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] At a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i last night, the Council of Ministers reviewed a plan by the Ministry of Supply to provide basic commodities and materials in 1989. The Council of Ministers decided the following:

1. To guarantee the availability of the Kingdom's needs in wheat, sugar, rice, milk, fresh and frozen lamb and beef, fresh and frozen chickens, barley, and corn. This is in addition to maintaining a permanent strategic reserve to meet the Kingdom's needs for 5 months.

2. To maintain the prices of these goods at current levels, despite price rises in the countries from which they are imported. The government will pay the difference between the higher, real cost of these materials and the prices at which they will be sold to citizens.

This decision, which will cost the Treasury more than 60 million dinars in subsidies, will provide these basic commodities without increasing their prices. The measure stems from the government's policy of providing, to the extent allowed by state resources, the necessities of a dignified life for Jordanians.

Muslims To Meet in Damascus, Christians in Amman
JN0203112589 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 2 Mar 89 pp 24, 23

["Exclusive"]

[Text] It was officially announced in Beirut that the leaders of all conflicting Lebanese communities have agreed to meet with the Arab six-member committee headed by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in order to agree on a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese crisis and introduce constitutional and political reforms acceptable to all.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that it was agreed that the six-member committee will meet with the Muslim leaders in Damascus and the Christian leaders in Amman following the committee's scheduled meeting in Tunis on 17 March.

The current detente in Beirut gives hope to the possibility of resolving the Lebanese crisis, especially after General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government, had succeeded in reopening Beirut port and all its docks for world cargo ships. It has transpired that 'Awn is now the strongest candidate to succeed former President Amin al-Jumayyil as president of the republic. It was also reported that Syria and the United States have withdrawn their objection to 'Awn's nomination.

Most members of the Arab committee believe that 'Awn is a strong candidate who can unify Lebanon after having succeeded in bridling the Lebanese Forces and their leader Samir Ja'ja'.

The Christian and Muslim leaders met with the six-member committee in Kuwait a few days ago. The meeting was described as an important step toward settling the Lebanese crisis.

Tawhid Leader on Rushdie Affair, Arab 'Silence'
LD0103180689 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Beirut, March 1, IRNA—The Arab state's silence against the "West's vicious attack against Islam," was sharply criticized by Lebanon's Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban who reiterated the importance of Imam Khomeyni's just decree against Salman Rushdie.

"The West intends to test the Muslims' commitment to the principles of Islam," said the Tawhid Movement head and deplored that Arab rulers "treading the path of Zionism," have chosen to serve the U.S. and Europe by maintaining their "deadly mum" against 'The Satanic Verses.'

The Indian born apostate's satanic work has incensed the ummah and following Imam Khomeyni's decreeing of death penalty, Hezbollah cells throughout the world including Lebanese muslims have vowed to implement divine justice.

Salman Rushdie, with a 6-million dollar price on his head, is in hiding in Britain, whose increasing lawlessness and meddling in the affair has prompted Iran to serve an ultimatum to severe ties "if London does not revise its erroneous stand."

Meanwhile, prominent Hizballah Alim Seyyed 'Abbas Musawi of Lebanon has branded Rushdie's book and insult to the "sacred realm of all divine religions, particularly Islam."

He termed the imam's fatwah against Rushdie as "defense of all Muslims" and exhorted the ummah to follow the leader of the Islamic Revolution's stance in all fields.

Lebanese Forces Said To Begin Evacuating Beirut
NC0203081689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] According to military sources, the Lebanese Forces began pulling its troops out of Beirut 2 days ago in implementation of an agreement with the Army Command by which the Lebanese Forces should evacuate Beirut by the end of next week.

According to these sources, the Lebanese Forces evacuated Furn al-Shubbak on 28 February and assembled their personnel in 'Ayn al-Rummanah yesterday, preliminary to evacuating that area also. The Lebanese Forces also removed their personnel and equipment from the real estate registration office in B'abda.

The sources say that the Lebanese Forces are to collect their heavy weapons and equipment in Beirut this week, and to move them later to somewhere outside the capital. The Lebanese Forces have actually began gathering their vehicles and artillery and are disassembling some of their bulky hardware.

The soures say that Al-Ashrafiyah will be evacuated later on, adding that the Lebanese Forces' agreement with their Army Command allows for a very limited number of the Forces' personnel to stay in Beirut in specified locations.

Nevertheless, sources in the Lebanese Forces have denied that their militiamen were pulled out of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, saying that this issue is not being discussed. These sources say that their personnel are still in the barracks and that the agreement with the Army had many aspects, mainly of a political nature, and the withdrawal of fighters was not among them.

The Lebanese Forces also denied that Zorro [the Lebanese Forces official in charge of 'Ayn al-Rummanah] had been arrested.

Source Denies Withdrawals

NC0203083089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] A responsible source from the Lebanese Forces has stated the following:

The AKHBAR AL-YAWM news agency has published a report on Lebanese Forces withdrawals from certain areas, and other news agencies and media have published similar reports. The Lebanese Forces deny all these incorrect and inaccurate reports. The Lebanese Forces believe that certain quarters that were saddened by the agreement between the Lebanese Forces and the Army are feeding the media with such news in the hope of creating a state of confusion and perplexity.

More on Withdrawal of Forces

NC0203084389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] According to security sources, the Lebanese Forces are continuing to set up a new military council in Al-Fidar on the coast of Junayl. The sources said that the Lebanese Forces will pull out from East Beirut within 1 or 2 weeks and added that the Army has already taken charge of the 'Ayn al-Rummanah area, where the Lebanese Forces personnel have been withdrawn from the streets and confined to their centers.

UN Envoy To Lodge Protest Against Israel

NC0103125989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The Lebanese Foreign Ministry has cabled Ambassdor Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations, requesting him to lodge an urgent and strongly-worded complaint with the United Nations and Security Council against Israel because of the air attack it launched against the Lebanese territory yesterday.

Acting Army Commander on Expected Israeli Attack

NC0203164289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Sami al-Khatib, acting Army commander staff major general, has stated that he expects an Israeli aggression at any moment. He said: We cannot depend on the promises the Israeli enemy makes to the United States and the West. Israel practices its own strategy and tactics covertly and intelligently. We cannot trust its promises at all.

In an interview with AP, Al-Khatib said that in practicality the Lebanese Army cannot restore its confidence in itself unless it proves its existence by confronting its traditional enemy Israel. He added: This does not mean that we seek to commit suicide in order to prove our presence. Our primary role is to defend the border, and our secondary role is to defend the interior.

Regarding the battalion dispatched to the South, Al-Khatib said: We want to renew the forces there in cooperation with the state's organs for public security, customs, and the gendarmarie. I have ordered this force to proceed to the South under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Nasif Qansuh, chief of state of the western sector. We will not cross certain lines which would put us in direct confrontation with Israel.

Amal, Fatah Officials Exchange Accusations

NC2602152989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Amal Movement officials in the South have accused the Fatah movement of secretly trying to violate the agreement between them by sending fighters and weapons to the Tyre area. They added that Fu'ad Shabaki, the Fatah official responsible for financial affairs, has ordered hundreds of thousands of dollars paid to reinforce Fatah's military presence in the Tyre area. Abu Jamal, the Amal security official in the South, accused the Fatah Movement of exploiting the battles between the Amal Movement and Hizballah to strengthen Fatah's presence by mobilizing local Amal members to assist it.

'Isam al-Lawh and 'Ala Dawud Yunis, two Fatah Movement officials, have affirmed that reinforcing Fatah's military presence in the South is designed to confront any military operation which the Amal Movement may launch with the help of the Palestinian National Salvation Front. They explained that the Fatah Movement's aim is just to defend the camps and to prevent their siege, noting that the Amal Movement receives military assistance from Syria.

Syrians Reportedly Raid Homes, Arrest Sunnis

NC0103173989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] According to the BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY, the Syrian occupation forces have taken several measures in West Beirut following the [recent] explosions there. Fixed and mobile roadblocks have been set up and many suspects' homes have been raided. A large number of Sunni youths have also been arrested. It has been learned that during its meeting today the Islamic grouping discussed this issue and decided to raise the matter with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Group Claims Attack on Palestinian Office

NC0103201789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] In West Beirut, the Muhammad Shuqayr group has claimed that it detonated an explosive charge in the Mar Ilyas Camp at 2128 this evening in front of the Abu

Fadi Hammad office, which belongs to Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha]. A spokesman for the group said that Syrian forces surrounded the area, set up checkpoints, and raided homes. The spokesman said that the Syrian forces also set up an intelligence checkpoint in the Spinneys area.

Clashes Reported Between SLA, Liberation Army

NC0103170589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] According to security sources, violent clashes raged along the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines this afternoon between the Popular Liberation Army positions and agent Lahd's militiamen. Various types of weapons were used during the clashes. These sources say that the sound of explosions and bombardment could be heard in areas far from the combat lines. So far there have been no reports stating if the clashes have eased or stopped.

Attacks on Lahd Positions Reported in South

NC0203124589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] In the resisting south, one of the national resistance squads fired three katyushas on an agent Lahd militia position in Al-Naqurah last night. Three of the Lahd militiamen were injured and a building used by the agents was damaged. The occupation forces and Lahd militia responded by combing the nearby area and Al-Mansuri hills in search for the resistance fighters.

Today, the Lebanese resistance groups—Amal carried out an operation against a position for the occupation forces and their agents in Al-Shumariyah. The operation left several of the personnel manning the post dead or wounded. According to reports from the area, the enemy has been shelling areas along the Al-Litani River and near Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr and Haddathah since 1230 today.

In another development, reports from Sidon say that clashes on the Kafr Falus front have abated since this morning. There was fierce fighting on that front overnight. Machineguns and artillery were used in the clashes, which resulted in the martyrdom of a fighter for the Popular Nasirite Organization and the wounding of three others.

DFLP Claims Operation in Northern Israel

NC0200115900 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1135 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Palestinian fedayeen crossed the borders between Lebanon and occupied Palestine today and attacked the occupation troops near the Zionist settlement of Zar'it in northern Palestine.

According to preliminary reports, the operation left 10 persons either killed or wounded in the enemy ranks. An Israeli tank and a vehicle were also destroyed.

The DFLP has claimed responsibility for the operation. A spokesman for the front said a fedayeen group from the intifadah [uprising] martyrs unit had carried out Operation Holy Jerusalem No 2 along the road leading to the Zionist settlement of Zar'it. The spokesman said a big battle took place between the fedayeen and the occupation troops, leaving four members of the unit martyred. The spokesman added that Israeli helicopters landed at the scene of the battle to evacuate the casualties among the Israeli soldiers.

The DFLP spokesman promised that a detailed statement explaining the circumstances and outcome of the operation will be issued in the name of the front's revolutionary armed forces.

In another development, intensive Israeli overflights were reported approximately 30 minutes ago over Sidon and up to Beirut and the mountain areas.

Israeli Artillery Bombards Areas in South

NC0103200789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The South Lebanese Army and Israeli forces have continued since this afternoon to bombard Palestinian positions with long-range 175-mm, 155-mm, and 130-mm caliber artillery along a front extending from 'Ayn al-Mir, Marah al-Ahbas, Lib'a to (Al-Tallah al-Bayda'). The bombardment, which has become violent as of this evening, is in retaliation for the Saydun operation claimed by the DFLP. The barrage also hit radical gunmen's positions in Kafr Kilki.

Israeli Aircraft Fly Over Sidon, Iqlim al-Kharrub

NC0103205389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the camps, reaching as far as the Iqlim al-Kharrub coast.

Al-Shar' Receives Message From Iran's Velayati

JN0103165789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon received Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Hashemi-Bahramani-Rafsanjani, director of the Third Political Office in the Iranian Foreign Ministry. He delivered a message to the minister from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Iran's Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari was present.

The message concerns bilateral relations between the two countries and the developments in the region.

Mufti Condemns Rushdie's 'Money-seeking' Book

JN0103164789 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Damascus, 1 Mar (SANA) — Shaykh Ahmad Kaftaru, mufti of the Syrian Arab Republic, has strongly condemned the book "Satanic Verses," which has been published in Britain. He asked its author, Salman Rushdie, to admit his mistake, withdraw the book, and prevent its further circulation.

In a statement issued today, Shaykh Kaftaru said that at a time when Islam and its noble prophet—God's peace and blessings be upon him—are gaining the respect of many thinkers and philosophers of the world, this book has appeared, by an author claiming to be a Muslim but who is actually far removed from Islam. The author is protected by his British citizenship and the so-called freedom of thought, to degrade Islam and its noble prophet through a historical novel published without any documentary evidence or scientific research. He pointed out that the novel is worthy of neither reading nor respect due to its lack of scientific, accurate, or objective methods of research.

He adds: Islam, which rejects lies and slander against the noble prophet, at the same time rejects the slander campaigns against all God's prophets and messengers. It considers any attempt to slander Islam as false and deceitful, and not based on honest and scientific research. The person who attempts to attack any of the prophets or messengers is an enemy of humanity. Humanity demands that he be tried to deter those who would gain profits and fame through fabrication and forgery from committing their mistakes again.

Shaykh Kaftaru said: As we condemn the book and the author, we call all those who love truth, arising from respect for the mind, knowledge, religious sanctities, and moral and noble values to expose Salman Rushdie and reveal the truth about him to the whole world.

At the conclusion of his statement, the shaykh mufti of the Republic called on institutions and research centers in science and the humanities throughout the world to express their honest and clear opinion on Salman Rushdie and his fictional, money-seeking novel. He declared that the circulation of the novel should be totally banned in Syria.

Socialist International Officials Arrive 1 Mar

JN0203090289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] A Socialist International delegation led by (Hans Wischnewski) arrived in Damascus at 2200 yesterday on a visit of several days. In a statement to a SANA correspondent, (Wischnewski) stressed the importance of Syria in the region and its fundamental role in attaining peace. He said that during this visit he and members of his delegation will hold talks with Syrian officials on the peace process in the Middle East.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Israeli Raid in Lebanon

JN0203102889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Mar 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Mentality of Aggression," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms in its editorial today that this mentality is entrenched deep within the Zionists and condoned by the Israeli political parties. Examples of this are the Zionist attacks against the hills of Baysur, 'Aynab, and Shimlan, east of Beirut. These attacks confirm that the creed of occupation and annihilation motivates the Zionists as if it were a law governing their daily life.

The paper adds: Consequently, Israel, which kills children in southern Lebanon with bombs from the air, also annihilates Palestinian children with poisonous gases, incineration, and live and rubber bullets. Moreover, Israel has imposed a siege on the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, depriving them of the most basic necessities of life.

In conclusion, AL-THAWRAH affirms that deterring Zionist aggression is not only an Arab, but a world responsibility. This is because aggression threatens both peace and human rights and detracts from the prestige and effectiveness of international charters. Therefore, the international community must, now more than ever, take measures to deter Israel's aggression and to punish it according to this community's laws and resolutions because human rights are not divisible.

Afghanistan

'Huge Avalanches' Close Salang Highway

LD0103174489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The Salang highway is closed to traffic due to huge avalanches. Highway and airfield construction department personnel and vehicles are very much involved in reopening the highway.

A highway and airfield construction department source of the Ministry of Construction Affairs reported to the BIA that as a result of last Thursday's fierce storm, huge avalanches occured in the Olang region, southern Salang, in areas in northern Salang up to Khenjan subdistrict. The Salang highway has been totally blocked as a result.

The source added that as a result of work and efforts by highway and airfield construction workers and vehicles of the northern regions, Salang has been opened and intensive clearing up work is under way in southern Salang.

The source added that a delegation, with the participation of Minister of Construction Affairs Nazar Muhammad and head of the highway and airfield construction department are supervising the work for opening the highway.

A source of the hydrometeorology department said that 308 cm of snow in was reported in northern Salang and 206 cm in southern Salang.

Highway Reopens 2 Mar

LD0203151789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The Salang highway, which was closed to traffic as a result of large avalanches from recent snowfalls, was reopened at 0300 today following the indefatigable work of the highway staff. The normal flow of traffic has resumed. A Construction Affairs Ministry spokesman informed BAKHTAR that parts of the northern Salang had been opened previously, but the southern Salang had been closed until early this morning.

The spokesman asked that prior to traveling toward the Salang Tunnel drivers of private and state vehicles should equip their vehicles at Khenjan and Jabal os Saraj with winter equipment and pay attention to the instructions of highway staff.

Kabul Radio on Military Situation 28 Feb-1 Mar

LD0103191589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] As a result of mopping-up operations in a number of the country's provinces in response to the plundering efforts by the warmongering extremists, a number of them, including some of their ringleaders and Arab advisers, were killed and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition was either destroyed or seized by the country's security forces.

An Armed Forces source reported that a 100-man armed group who perceived the righteousness of the national reconciliation policy joined the country's security forces.

Reporting of the military situation in the country in the past 24 hours the BAKHTAR military section said the following:

Nangarhar: The plundering groups, protected by Pakistan militarists and instructed by foreign advisers, have shelled Sarowbi District and its surrounding regions. As a result two houses were damaged.

Qandahar: As a result of mopping-up operations and retaliatory blows by the security forces, 25 extremists were killed in a region 10 km from Qandahar city. Three DShK's, two mortars, one missile, and a number of extremist positions and trenches were destroyed. Moreover, as a result of artillery shelling in the Daman region a weapons and ammunition depot belonging to the warmongers was destroyed. One ringleader attached to the Etehad group, three ringleaders attached to the Harakat group, and two Arab advisers were crushed.

Badghis: As a result of mopping-up operations in Ab Khaneh and (Kariz-e Sofi), six extremists were killed and five were injured.

Lowgar: As a result of the Armed Forces mopping-up operations in this province, two extremists were killed and a large number of their weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

Laghman: Criminal extremists attempted to plant mines along the Laghman-Jalalabad highway, in (Kachur Kheyl) and Farman Kheyl in Qarghah'i District, to shed the blood and close the highway. The security organs, with the cooperation of the patriotic people of this region, discovered the extremists' satanic plans in time and foiled them. As a result seven extremists were killed and eight were seriously injured.

Three light machineguns, 90 mortars, 50 rockets, 50 mines and a quantity of explosives, and antigovernment leaflets were seized by the security forces.

Konduz: Internal differences recently intensified among extremists groups and caused bloody clashes between them. For example, as a result of a clash between extremist groups in (Aman-Saheb) District, four members of the belligerent parties were killed and a number were injured.

Herat: The plundering elements who were after the people's property in Enjil District were confronted with crushing blows by the security forces. As a result three

criminals were killed and a missile was destroyed. Another report adds that armed opposition groups are increasingly perceiving current realities in society and are repenting their past actions by giving up fighting and fratricide. For example, a 100-man armed group, led by Haji 'Amin, joined the security units on 26 February in Kuhestan District.

According to another report, 414 courageous youths enlisted in the units and subunits of the Armed Forces in the capital and provinces during the past 24 hours in order to discharge the sacred military service.

109 Rebels Killed in Nangarhar

LD0203162489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Units and companies of the Armed Fores carried out a series of actions in retaliation for extremist attacks protected by the Pakistani militarists in various regions of the country. As a result of these actions, 140 [number as heard] warmongers were killed, a number were wounded, and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition were either destroyed or seized. An official Armed Forces source briefed BAKHTAR on the military situation during the past 24 hours:

Nangarhar: Armed Forces units carried out combat operations in retaliation for an attack by the extremists along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. As a result, 17 criminals were killed and 22 were wounded. Two missiles and three recoilless guns were destroyed. A number of Armed Forces personnel were also wounded in these operations. According to another report, artillery and Air Force strikes in Nangarhar Province killed 92 extremists, including their ringleader Mullah Karim; 65 were wounded and 6 Kalashnikovs, 1 mortar, 2 rocket launchers, 1 DShK, and 1 recoilless gun were destroyed.

Khowst: As a result of extremist heavy fire at security posts in Gorbaz and Jaji Meydan and at residential areas, one civilian was martyred and another was wounded.

Qanadhar: During Armed Forces units and companies mopping-up operations in a Qanadhar city suburb, 36 warmongering extremists were killed, 1 76-mm gun with 30 rounds of ammunition, 31 rounds of ammunition for recoilless guns and 10 boxes of assorted ammunition were seized.

Herat: As a result of extremist heavy weapons fire at Armed Forces units in Herat Province and at residential areas, six Armed Forces members were wounded. During artillery forces operations in Enjil District, 15 terrorists were killed, 2 were wounded, and weapons and ammunition belonging to them were destroyed.

A report says that during the last 24 hours, 472 of our patriotic youths voluntarily reported to military offices in the capital and provincial centers. After registering their names, they were sent to relevant units and companies.

Pakistan Claims Soviet Troops Still in Vakhan

BK0203152189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Islamabad, March 2 (AFP)—Soviet troops remain in Afghanistan's strategically located Vakhan corridor, which borders China in the east and Pakistan in the south, a newspaper said Thursday. A huge military cantonment has been built in the strip, THE MUSLIM said, citing military intelligence sources.

Islamabad is concerned that the Soviet Union has not met its expectations by continuing to maintain troops in the strip, the daily said.

The Soviet Union reportedly annexed the Vakhan corridor in 1983 under an agreement with former Afghan President Babrak Karmal, but contents of the alleged protocol have never been made public.

THE MUSLIM quoted the military intellegence sources as saying that Moscow has since established a full fledged cantonment and two smaller garrisons in Vakhan.

China reportedly used the strip to send weapons to the mujahidin rebels, but Soviet forces blocked the flow during their stay in Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union says that its forces completed the withdrawal from Afghanistan on February 15 under the U.N.-brokered Geneva accords.

A correspondent at the official Soviet news agency TASS told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here that all Soviet troops had left Afghanistan, including the Vakhan strip.

But THE MUSLIM quoted intelligence sources as saying during a recent officially sponsored visit to northern Pakistan that Soviet forces had not vacated the Vakhan strip. The paper said Moscow had constructed an air base for MiG-27 planes along with two other airstrips at different points.

The Soviet Union has also established a road link to ensure regular supplies to the population in Vakhan, it said.

The region's Kirghiz population, mostly of Turkish origin, fled to Pakistan in 1983. On Ankara's offer, the Kirghiz were later flown to Turkey.

Ministers Issue State of Emergency Resolutions

LD0103230789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] As you know, the Republic of Afghanistan, by declaring the state of emergency, has taken a number of measures to better arrange work, help people, and observe public order. We now broadcast two resolutions of the Republic of Afghanistan Council of Ministers on these issues.

1. The Republic of Afghanistan Council of Ministers resolution on the decree of esteemed Afghan President Najibullah dated 18 February 1989. [no title of resolution as heard] It was approved by the Council of Ministers Executive Committee on 28 February.

The Republic of Afghanistan Council of Ministers asserts that the state of emergency has been declared and enforced by esteemed Afghan President Najibullah's decree in line with provisions in the Afghan Constitution for eliminating foreign interference and violations; for the resolute defense of the country's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty; for implementing the national reconciliation policy; and for ensuring peace in Afghanistan.

The country's present situation and people's basic and extreme need for peace require specific, profound, and precise actions in all aspects. In this situation every effort will be applied to strengthen state and service discipline and to observe the legality of the state of emergency. The active participation of state employees and leading cadres is especially important to stabilize the situation in the country and resolve grave socioeconomic problems. Therefore, it is important to make and implement due decisions, taking into account the state of emergency; to campaign against all negative incidents which damage legal order and state discipline and to maintain guarded control of these actions to prevent shortcomings and violations in a timely way; to elevate the level of examination; and to consolidate state discipline.

I. The Republic of Afghanistan Council of Ministers approves:

1. In line with implementing the state of emergency decree, ministries, state corporations, and administrations are dutybound to take action to consolidate discipline, consolidate legality, harden systematic control, and elevate the level of examination of the officers in related organs. For this purpose serious attention must be paid to enhancing work quality to ensure precise planning discipline and national economic development indices; to prevent disorders; to diagnose the causes and motives of violations; to observe collective leadership and individual responsibility and accountability; and to ensure serious surveillance of executive discipline.

2. Serious attention will be paid to resolving problems and meeting people's requirements; to enhancing the pace of affairs; and to campaigning against corruption, bureaucratism, formalism, slackness, and recklessness. Specific actions will be taken to improve working conditions, strengthen law and order, and develop the activities of related organs in provinces.

3. All government employees, including workers and services staff, are dutybound to ensure the full implementation of duties entrusted on them and related planned objectives with the precise observance of the Constitution, the law of the state of emergency, and other enforced legislative documents and with patriotism. They are also obliged to behave responsibly toward public property, take effective and operative measures, and introduce delinquents immediately to the appropriate authorities. They are dutybound to preserve norms for human health and work and techniques for the preservation of the means of work. They are required to employ their experience to strive decidedly to conserve energy and enhance the level of work and to improve and increase production. They must also help to establish self-defense groups to defend related administrations, factories, mines, and projects within the maximum individual limits feasible.

4. Responsible officials of the ministries, departments, and establishments are commissioned to inform their staff consistently about the conditions of the state of emergency and about present demands. They should ask them for assistance in carrying out their tasks, maintaining work discipline, and consolidating normal working conditions. Officials should exert their efforts to maximally utilize working hours, to prevent wasting working hours, to prevent work delays, and to prevent negative work discipline. New ways of work should be found to maximize saving in material, energy, and [word indistinct] forces.

In order to improve work minimal reserves also should be used. To properly organize work and vigorously control various processes of work and production, officials should locate and uproot bureaucratic and superficial forms. Legal measures should be taken against undisciplined and lazy staff. Disobedient staff should be severely warned. In appointing staff, professional skill, work experience, and loyalty to the high interests of the homeland and people are the bases which should be responsibly observed along with normal legal indications. A sound daily reporting system for staff attendance should be structured and set work procedures should be adopted.

Propaganda and explanatory work should be organized among the staff, including the female staff. Under the present conditions, when the majority of males are engaged in security and defense affairs, the female staff's national and patriotic role in serving the country and society should be specified. Close attention should also

be paid to enhancing the level of the female staff's professional skills. They should be asked to function in accordance wih the conditions of the state of emergency.

In order to further explain the aims of this resolution and in order to take further measures, an extraordinary meeting of the leadership of relevant organs, including the commissioned activists and staff, should be held very soon.

5. The Ministries of Education and Training, Higher and Vocational Education, Public Health, and those other ministries under which educational establishments exist, in considering the characteristics of their departments' work, should maintain the discipline of education and training in line with the present conditions and should adopt and implement other measures.

6. The Ministry of Justice, the Central Social Security Department, and the Council of Minister's Control and Investigation Department, in accordance with the Constitution and the law on the state of emergency, are commissioned to profoundly study the labor law, the law of state employees of the Republic of Afghanistan, and other documents relating to labor. Then, within 4 days, they are to submit their specific proposals to the Council of Ministers on the limitation or the suspension of a number of articles and items which, under the state of emergency, cannot be implemented to further strengthen discipline and order and normal working conditions.

7. The Ministry of Information and Culture should prepare specific programs for Afghan citizens in the present situation in the country, strengthen state and work discipline, and profoundly observe the legality of the state of emergency. These should be published in the mass media.

8. Officials of primary responsibility in the ministries, departments, and establishments are individually responsible for the complete implementation of this resolution.

II. Text of a Council of Ministers Resolution entitled: Adopting measures concerning the distribution, sale and control of primary goods to Kabul citizens through the outlets selling state goods, under the state of emergency. This resolution was approved by the Council of Ministers Executive Committee on 28 February.

In consideration of the present circumstances, in order to maintain families' standard of living, prevent hoarding and price increases, and to distribute basic materials fairly and at the specified prices, the Council of Ministers approves the following:

1. The commodities needed by the Kabul citizens should be distributed in view of the coupon booklets in accordance with the specified norm and price by the outlets selling the government commodities.

2. The specified coupon booklets should be given to the coupon holders in view of the first article of this resolution in addition to the determined coupon to which they are entitled.

3. A supplies commission, at the level of Kabul city and its wards, should be formed to organize and control the supply and sale of basic commodities.

4. This commission is dutybound to organize the sale of basic materials to Kabul citizens through outlets selling government goods in exchange for specific coupons, in accordance with the norm and price determined by the Ministry of Commerce. The outlets for the supply and distribution of goods must be determined and set up with the cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce in utilizing the existing government outlets.

A controlling group, at the level of Kabul city and wards, is to be set up and commissioned to continuously transport, distribute, and sell commodities, maintaining systematic control. Commissions are to be set up at the level of Kabul city's wards with the participation of the representatives of the relevant organs. The commissions' work procedures and a mechanism for the distribution and sale of goods should be drafted and approved.

5. Ministries, departments, and institutions should set up special commissions to better organize the distribution and sale of surplus commodities to their respective employees through their coupon outlets. The procedure regulating the activities of these commissions should also be designed and approved by the Kabul city commission.

6. The Ministry of Commerce and Kabul municipality are commissioned to take action in printing, designing, and distributing the coupon booklets. These coupons should be sold to the people beginning 5 March at a price of 70 afghanis. The money from the sale of these coupons should be credited to the government account.

7. The responsibility for the implementation and control of this resolution rests on the deputy prime minister. A report on the progress of the implementation of this resolution should be presented to the Council of Ministers' Executive Committee session next month.

Interim Government, Shi'ites To Hold Talks

BK0203024489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have completed preparations for a combined attack on Jalalabad soon. According to AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, the date and time of the attack have been determined. The interim government has set up its police force in Jalalabad in order to maintain law and order and to protect the lives and property of the people there.

Addressing Afghan refugees in Peshawar yesterday, the president of the interim government in Afghanistan, Prof Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, congratulated them on the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. He thanked Islamic countries, especially Pakistan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, for assisting the mujahidin.

The president of the interim government in Afghanistan, Prof Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, said efforts are being made to include the leaders of the Iran-based mujahidin. Addressing a gathering of Afghans in Peshawar, he said a delegation will go to Iran soon and will hold talks with the Afghan leaders. He expressed the hope that the Iran-based mujahidin will soon participate in the Afghan interim government and will render full support to it.

Various political and religious organizations attended a combined rally in Lahore on the success of the struggle of Afghan mujahidin against foreign intervention in Afghanistan.

'Ulema Statement Urges Shi'ite-Sunni Unity

LD0103164789 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., March 1, IRNA—A group of Afghan 'ulema in a statement stressed on the unity between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims in Afghanistan, and outlined their opinions over the future government in the landlocked Muslim country.

The 'Imamiya' 'Ulema reiterated that Ja'fari school should also be considered as an established school and Shi'ite Muslims according to their population given cabinet and other government posts. "Shi'ite areas should have Shi'ite governorate," they said.

The statement called for holidays to be declared on 'Ashura (10th Muharrum martyrdom anniversary of Imam Husayn A.S. [God's peace by upon him]), 28 of Sa'far (the prophet's—PBUH [peace by upon him]—demise) and 15 of Sha'ban (birth anniversary of the 12th Imam Mahdi A.S.[God's peace be upon him]).

Dari (classical Persian) and Pashtu should continue as official languages, said the 'ulema and called on the Afghan Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims to forget about the bitter experiences of the past and join hands to institute an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Shi'ite Muslims comprise over 35 percent of the total Afghan population, and the Persian speaking Hazaras based in central Afghan mountains form the major ethnic Shi'ite group. In addition there are hundreds of thousands of Shi'ites in urban areas referred to as Qizilbash in the local dialect.

The Iran-based 8-party coalition is the major mujahidin group representing Afghan Shi'ites.

'Abdul Haq Details Strategy To Take Kabul

PM0203095289 Paris LE FIGARO in French 28 Feb 89 p 5

[Interview with mujahidin leader 'Abdul Haq by Renaud Girard in Peshawar—date not given]

[Text] Peshawar—[Girard] Do you want Kabul to fall before the other cities?

['Abdul Haq] It would be better if Kabul fell first. Because if Kabul falls, the whole country will fall.

[Girard] How big a force do you have around the capital?

['Abdul Haq] We have two types of fighter—the Markaz armed fighters and the Kabul unarmed mujahidin who may be civil servants, policemen, storekeepers.... I have 5,000 armed mujahidin and 30,000 people inside Kabul under my orders.

[Girard] How many mujahidin do you think there are around the capital, if you add all the resistance groups together?

['Abdul Haq] In general, you will find between 20,000 and 25,000 mujahidin surrounding the capital permanently.

[Girard] Are you cooperating with other organizations?

['Abdul Haq] Kabul belongs to the whole of Afghanistan, not to just one region or one commander. We will readily welcome anybody who wishes to come to fight. Nobody can liberate Kabul alone.

[Girard] Are you expecting Mas'ud's troops (who are currently in the northern region in Panjsher)?

['Abdul Haq] Mas'ud holds a region that is very important for us. All the regime's supplies pass through it. We need his troops to stay in his region because Najibullah may establish his capital in Mazar-e Sharif (the main northern city, on the road to the USSR) and somebody must deal with that....

Limiting the Military Action

[Girard] Can you take Kabul militarily?

['Abdul Haq] It is more important to destroy it from within. If there is a large-scale military operation with 5,000 rockets fired per day, at least 3,000 people will be killed. We do not want to liberate the city with the blood of innocent people. We will try to limit our action to military and official buildings.

[Girard] Are your plans of attack ready?

['Abdul Haq] My plan has two phases. The first phase is to do all we can to use the whole Kabul population. I hope that some of the officials who have taken up arms against us will now turn them against the regime.

Part of the population has been forced to work with the government. It is very important for those people not to feel obliged to fight to the end. They must not feel that they are doomed. They must know that they are on our side if they admit their past mistakes.

The second phase will comprise strictly military operations, but it will also involve the immediate establishment of law and order in the city. I do not want summary executions. Anybody who is arrested will be placed under protection and then tried.

[Girard] Do you plan to cut off the capital's supplies?

['Abdul Haq] No, I have always done my best to ensure that supplies continue. I have even taken from my own mujahidin to feed the population. I do not want to use the weapon of hunger. The problem is that I am not the only person involved. There are many other commanders belonging to other parties. I have made detailed proposals to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the American Agency for International Development, and other organizations to tell them how to continue to send supplies.

[Girard] Do you now regard yourself as being under direct orders from Muhammadi, who is defense minister in the interim government?

['Abdul Haq] I will probably place myself under his orders, especially if this alliance remains united and continues to represent the majority of the people. If, on the other hand, they start quarreling again as they did before, I will have nothing more to do with them.

[Girard] Do you plan to rejoin your troops soon?

['Abdul Haq] I am waiting to see how the Peshawar alliance works, but I cannot wait for months.

[Girard] What game will Najibullah play?

['Abdul Haq] I do not think that Najibullah plans to stay in this country for very long. Najibullah has planted bombs in most of the important buildings. He has his own heliport from which he can flee. His plan is to leave as much chaos as possible behind him. He will try to set the various groups against each other—the Shi'ites against the Sunnis, Kabul's inhabitants against the mujahidin, and so forth.

[Girard] Apparently 70 percent of the population are in favor of the king's return, what about you?

['Abdul Haq] We are fighting for an ideal, not for an individual. We know that the king is now a point of disagreement in Afghanistan. He made many mistakes in the past. What will I do if he returns? I will neither fight for him nor against him.

[Girard] Will the first measure taken after the liberation of Kabul be the disarming of the mujahidin?

['Abdul Haq] Yes, but that is not an easy thing to do. We cannot leave Afghanistan with so many weapons.

[Girard] How do you view the future? What sort of future have you been fighting for?

['Abdul Haq] My country was invaded. We had to save our religion, our culture, our homeland, our freedom, and our unity. Of course, it was our faith that helped us to fight, but we did not fight just for our faith. If a foreign mullah tried to invade us, we would fight him just as fiercely.

Afghanistan is a Muslim country. Any regime that deviates from Islam would be condemned. That is why communism has collapsed here.

Najibullah Sends Messages to PLO, Mexico, SFRY

LD0203074289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0415 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March, 1, (BAKHTAR)—On behalf of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, separate messages have been communicated to His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of Palestine Liberation Organisation, presidents of Mexico and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The messages elucidated that the Republic of Afghanistan have taken vast measures for securing peace and stability in the country and have faithfully observed the provisions of the Geneva accords about the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. The complete return of the military contingents of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan which has been carried out in compliance with the provisions of Geneva accords has removed any pretexts for the continuation of interferences into the internal affairs of Afghanistan. However, Pakistan and the United States by ignoring their obligations vis-a-vis these accords have stepped up their interventions exacerbating the situation and has posed serious threat to peace in the country and the region.

The messages reiterated that the political solution of the Afghan problem can be only acheived through dialogue and negotiations between Afghans themselves. The peaceful countries of the world can play a constructive role by using moral persuasion on the other parties concerned in the attainment of peace in Afghanistan.

Cables YAR, Sudan, Argentina

LD0103141989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 28, BAKHTAR—On behalf of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, messages have been sent to the head of the states of Yemen Arab Republic, Sudan and Argentina.

The messages have recalled the comprehensive measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan for the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan. The messages note that with the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan no pretext remains for the continuation of interferences into the internal affairs of Afghanistan. However, with great regret, Pakistan and the United States have further intensified their interventions into the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, ignoring their obligations vis-a-vis the Geneva accords.

The messages ask the leaders of those countries to contribute in urging the other parties to the Geneva accords for the fulfilment of their obligations enshrined in the Geneva accords and thus to serve for the cause of peace.

Keshtmand Chairs Council of Ministers Session

LD0103152789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] A session of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, chaired by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, was held this afternoon at the Council of Ministers Headquarters. Resolutions were passed on issues concerning the measures for implementing the 18 February decree of Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, regarding the state of emergency.

Decisions were made on the law on the prevention of hoarding, setting norms for consumption, and a distribution mechanism of gasoline, extra measures for maximum use of transportation facilities, and the transportation of primary goods from Hayratan port, better organization of essential goods available to residents of the city of Kabul for ensuring price controls, and the expansion of the sale of government goods networks during the state of emergency, measures for increased bread production for the residents of Kabul, and socio-economic and organizational issues at the Council of Ministers. Some decisions of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers approved in today's session will be published in the country's mass media.

Council of 'Ulema Declaration Condemns Shura

LD0203073189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 1, (BAKHTAR)—The Supreme Council of 'Ulema and Clergymen of the Republic of Afghanistan has published the following declaration on the holding of the so-called Consultative Council:

The Council of 'Ulema and Clergymen, on the basis of respnsibility which it has before the God, the country and the people of Afghanistan, declares that the holding of the so-called Consultative Council in Pakistan under the conditions of closed doors and under the pressure of Pakistan's intelligence department is a contempt to the tenets of the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

The convocation of such a shura under the conditions when the military contingents of the Soviet Union have returned to their homeland and the Government of Afghanistan has invited all of our compatriots to reconcile and to take part in the reconstruction of the country is an open conspiracy against the independence and territorial integrity of the country, as was planned by Britain in getting Shah Shuja to power.

The Council of 'Ulema and Clergymen of the Republic of Afghanistan considers the establishment of Wahhabi government in Pakistan as contrary to accepted norms, beliefs of the Muslim people of Afghanistan and the national traditions of Afghans.

The Council of 'Ulema and Clergymen on behalf of the religious scholars and clergymen of the country call on the Muslim people of Afghanistan to annihilate the Pakistani-made Wahhabi government in the same way as their fathers exterminated the British puppet Shah Shuja government. Such a mock government does not have any place among clean Muslim of Afghanistan and our people certainly regard it as their obligation to campaign against Wahhabis which is in contradiction with the tenets of an overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of this homeland and will not spare any sacrifices in foiling their sinister intentions.

Bangladesh

Armed Police Guard British Council Library

BK0203081989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Dhaka, March 2 (AFP)—Armed police guarded the British Council library here Thursday following a protest there over Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses" in which the building was stoned, officials said.

Several hundred Moslem demonstrators held a protest march elsewhere in the city Thursday, in the downtown Motijheel commercial district, demanding the execution of the Indian-born British author for blaspheming Islam.

An official said Thursday that three truck-loads of armed police had been deployed to guard the otherwise quiet one-storey building housing the British Council library near the Dhaka University campus.

About 200 student demonstrators on Wednesday hurled stones at the building, breaking windows, and damaged parked cards during an unscheduled protest march.

"A few glass panes of the building have been broken... However, no one received any injury," a guard at the library said.

Police on lorries followed the Motijheel march Thursday organised by a fundamentalist Moslem group. The march went off peacefully, witnesses said.

Newspapers here Thursday carried reports of anti-Rushdie protests in other Bangladesh towns.

Some 5,000 people had held protest rallies and processions Wednesday in Narayanganj outside Dhaka demanding the public execution of Mr. Rushdie and a worldwide ban on "The Satanic Verses," newspapers said.

The protesters burned an effigy of Mr. Rushdie before dispersing peacefully, they added.

Predominantly Moslem Bangladesh, which made Islam the state religion last year, has banned "The Satanic Verses."

President Urges More Japanese Financial Support

OW2602133589 Tokyo KYODO in English 0918 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on Sunday urged Japan to extend more financial support to speed the recovery of his nation from its worst ever flood disaster last year, Japanese officials said.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Ershad also asked Japan to take his appeal to a Paris summit meeting in July and call on other industrialized nations for relief.

Bangladesh was hit by a devastating cyclone and flood last December in which as many as 10,000 people were believed killed.

Assured by Takeshita that French President Francois Mitterrand, the summit host, was deeply interested in flood relief, Ershad went on to say Japanese investment was indispensable to industrializing Bangladesh.

Ershad also appealed for Japanese financing for the construction of a bridge over the Jamuna River which bisects the nation, a project he characterized as very important in developing the Bangladeshi economy.

Takeshita said he hoped that an economic mission Japan sent to Bangladesh earlier this month would prompt more Japanese investments there, and promised to study cooperation in the bridge project.

Ershad invited Takeshita to visit Bangladesh to observe how Japanese aid has been utilized in the country.

Takeshita reminded Ershad that Japan also was once a debtor nation and recipient of foreign aid.

Ershad concluded the meeting with a pledge that Bangladesh would not depend on foreign aid infinitely. He said Bangladesh wanted to emulate Japan and become economically independent.

At the beginning of the 25-minute talk, Takeshita thanked the Bangladesh Government for ordering a three-day national mourning following the death of Emperor Hirohito on January 7. Ershad was in Tokyo to attend Emperor Hirohito's funeral, held Friday.

Japan To Provide 5 Billion Yen

OW2702180489 Tokyo KYODO in English 0917 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 27 KYODO—Japan has decided to give 5 billion yen in grant-in-aid to Bangladesh for debt relief, based on a resolution adopted at a United Nations-affiliated conference in 1978 aimed at upgrading bilateral official development assistance (ODA), the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The grant-in-aid, totaling 5,232,253,000 yen, equals the amount of capital and interest on Japan's ODA loans to Bangladesh contracted before March 31, 1978, and whose repayment was due in the second half of fiscal 1987 and the first half of fiscal 1988, according to the ministry.

According to a ministry official, Bangladesh will "pay" Japan the amount, which in return will be donated to Bangladesh by Japan as grant-in-aid, on condition that it be used to purchase goods and other materials necessary for economic development in Bangladesh.

Notes were exchanged on Sunday in Dhaka between Japanese and Bangladesh Government officials.

Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad on Sunday urged Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to give more financial assistance to the flood-devastated nation to help restore its economy.

Ershad was in Tokyo to attend Friday's funeral of Emperor Hirohito, now called Emperor Showa.

Vietnamese Delegation Meets Prime Minister 27 Feb

BK2802145189 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] A five-member telecommunication delegation from Vietnam called on Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed in Dhaka, Monday. They discussed particularly the export of digital PABX [Private Automatic Branch Exchange] and other telecommunication equipment from Bangladesh to Vietnam. Mr Moudud Ahmed

assured the Vietnamese delegation of all possible help for future expansion and promotion of bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Police Seize Heroin, Arrest Six for Smuggling

BK2802102289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0958 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 28 (AFP)—Police raided a tourist lodge in southeastern Bangladesh, seizing one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of heroin and arresting six people for allegedly smuggling and possessing the banned drug, press reports here said Tuesday [28 February].

The police action late Sunday in the coastal town of Cox's Bazar followed a tip off that suspected smugglers in the government-owned lodge were trying to locally sell the heroin, suspected to have been smuggled in from Thailand through Burma.

The seized heroin was estimated to be worth 10 million taka (312,500 dollars) locally.

The six arrested Bangladeshi nationals were being questioned for suspected links with international drug smugglers, the reports said quoting police in Cox's Bazar, which is near the border with Burma.

India

Minister Reviews U.S. Policy on Pakistan

BK0203081089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, told the Lok Sabha today that the U.S. Government has indicated that no significant changes can be expected in its policy of military assistance to Pakistan even after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The minister was asked during question time whether India has asked the new U.S. Administration to review its policy of military aid to Pakistan, especially in view of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. He said the issue of U.S military aid to Pakistan has been raised with Washington on several occasions and at various levels. The issue figured during the talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had with the Pakistan prime minister, Mrs Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad. The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, also took it up with the U.S. officials in Tokyo.

Replying to questions Mr Natwar Singh said that India stands for full implementation of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan to ensure peace and stability in this friendly country. Asked to comment on the report that Indian pilots are flying Afghan military planes the reply of the minister was a categorical no. Answering questions, he said India stands for friendly relations with all the neighbors. He agreed with the member that induction of sophisticated arms in Pakistan could affect peace in the region.

PATRIOT Ridicules U.S. View of Human Rights

BK2602105489 Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Feb 89 p 4

[From the "Comment" column entitled: "Criminal's Verdict"]

[Text] The United States have once again chosen to sit in judgment on the alleged human rights violation in India. Indeed, in recent years, it has become too frequent on the part of Washington to assume this self-appointed role. For one thing, there is no need for Indians to be enlightened on human rights by the benighted U.S. Administrations. We are familiar with Uncle Sam's civilising missions in Indo-China, Latin America and elsewhere. So are the Red Indians, Blacks, the Hispanics and even the Indians living in the United States, a country which is so proud of its melting-pot character. What do these minority groups have to say about the Anglo-Saxon's own human rights record? What do the Indians think of the so-called "Dotbusters"? The myth that the U.S. seeks to perpetuate is that it is a land of "unbounded freedom".

Maybe because it has installed a statue of liberty gifted by France! In essence, what the U.S. has sought to popularise is capitalism. The freedom that advanced capitalism propagates is, in effect, consumerism. And consumerism has robbed the individual of his ability to choose. Man has been reduced to an abstraction, or a mere consumer, a mere voter! A society, where close, intimate human relationships are impossible, cannot champion the cause of human rights. The greatest abuses of human rights are taking place in South Africa whose military muscles have been fattened by none else but by American feed.

The Zionists are another major perpetrator of human rights violations and yet Israel, as a nursling of the U.S. has banked almost entirely on American political and military support. While talking of human rights abuses, the U.S. Administrations have often failed to see the merit of Indian democracy. In a region where most of the newly independent states were taken over by authoritarian rulers, India has clung tenaciously to the basic tenets of democracy. This country does not need a certificate from Washington about its democratic credentials. New Delhi should bluntly tell Washington: Physician, heal thyself!

Home Minister Statement on Terrorism, Opposition

BK0103161889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, today expressed government's firm resolve to root out terrorist forces in Punjab. Making an hour-long intervention in

the discussion on the motion of thanks to the president's address in the Lok Sabha, he declared that the government will never allow division of the country in the name of Khalistan.

The home minister severely criticized the Janata Dal and National Front for taking an opportunistic stand on the Punjab problem. He alleged that a member of the National Front went to Chandigarh and extended his support to the demand for Khalistan. Asserting that unity and integrity of the country will not be compromised at any cost, Mr Buta Singh said that the government will put up a stiff fight against forces supporting religious fundamentalism, regionalism, communalism, and linguistic opportunism.

Mr Buta Singh said that Janata Dal and National Front have no policy and programs on major national issues nor any ideology. He said their only objective seems to be to grab power.

Mr Buta Singh declared that Janata Dal and National Front can never provide an alternative to the Congress-I, which put the nation and ideals like secularism above petty political gains.

Mr Buta Singh criticized state governments of Andhra Pradesh and Assam for their inept handling of law and order problems. He accused the N.T. Rama Rao government in Andhra Pradesh of being soft on Naxalites, who are indulging in violence and exploiting tribals. He alleged that the state government is also causing disaffection among the IAS [Indian Administrative Service] and IPS [Indian Police Service] officers. He said the opposition-ruled states lost no opportunity of accusing the center of noncooperation, though the union government always tried to help them out.

He said the Assam government was not able to contain the Bodo agitation, but on the contrary it has accused the union home minister of supporting this agitation. He said nothing could be further from the truth than this. He said while the center had mainly kept its commitments on the Assam Accord, the state government has been slow on its implementation.

The home minister wondered why some elements are attempting to whip up sentiments on Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" when it has already been banned by the government.

Mr Buta Singh listed the achievements of the government in the last 4 years and said it had started tackling major problems in Punjab, Mizoram, Assam, Nagaland, and Tripura from the day it assumed office.

Opposition Agrees To End Boycott of Parliament

BK0103131789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Opposition parties, which have been staying away from both houses of Parliament, have announced that they will participate in the proceedings from tomorrow. In a joint statement this evening they said that though they are not fully satisfied with the regret expressed by the prime minister, they have resolved to end the boycott in the larger public interest as the budget session provides an opportunity to discuss pressing problems before the country and voice people's grievances.

The signatories to the statement include the leaders of Telugu Desam, Janata, Congress-S, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Forward Bloc, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], Asom Gana Parishad, Muslim League, both the factions of Akali Dal, DMK and a group of the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam].

Agreement With GDR on Third Country Ventures

BK2802041389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] India and the German Democratic Republic have agreed to take up joint ventures in third countries. The projects will be in equipment manufacturing and related fields for which both countries have the required expertise. These views were expressed at a meeting in New Delhi between the visiting GDR minister for heavy engineering, Dr Lauck, and the energy minister, Mr Vasant Sathe.

Chinese Communist Party Delegation Meets Gandhi

BK0103042189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The visiting high-level delegation of the Chinese Communist Party met the Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi. The leader of the delegation, Mr Zhu Liang, extended an invitation for a Congress-I delegation to visit China. The invitation was accepted by Mr Gandhi.

Minutes Signed on Increasing Trade With Bulgaria

BK0203051989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] India and Bulgaria are to step up trade between them. Both countries have agreed to have an additional trade turnover of about 225 crore rupees during 1989. The minutes to this effect were signed in New Delhi yesterday by the visiting Bulgarian deputy minister of foreign economic relations, Mr Stefan Polendakov, and the joint secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Mr V.S. Venkatraman.

The proposed additional turnover will be over and above the normal trade that has been taking place between the two countries. The items for exports from India include soya extractions, coffee, black pepper, iron ore, knit wear and garments, machine tools, and electronic items. The imports from Bulgaria will cover news print, steel products, drugs, and machinery for food processing.

Mr Polendakov also met the commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh, and discussed with him bilateral trade relations.

Consequences of Pakistani Nuclear Program Noted
BK2702143489 Delhi PATRIOT in English
10 Feb 89 p 4

[Article by Cecil Victor entitled: "Meaning of Pak Weapons Disclosures"]

[Text] Besides the throw-weight and range of the missiles and the yield of the nuclear arsenal that Pakistan has acquired it is necessary to understand why confirmation of the fruits of its clandestine activities should come from none other than Washington which has been giving the regime in Islamabad a good conduct certificate over the past decade. Certain geo-strategic games are about to be played out shortly and it is unlikely that India is going to come out of it with flying colours.

The release of President Ronald Reagan's letter to House of Representatives Speaker Jim Wright, the contents of which clearly betray US knowledge of the extent and direction of the Pakistani nuclear programme, is a demarche intended to serve warning on India that it must now begin to take the necessary steps to allow the US game-plan for the region to be implemented. Pakistan with an operational nuclear weapon (just two screwdriver turns away—no need to test it because all parameters have already been proved in tests by China in the improvement of its own nuclear arsenal) and the ability to deliver it (both with aircraft and missiles) is now ready to talk business.

All but the very naive in India (and those who have been playing the US game) were sure that there would come a time when Pakistan would finally admit that its nuclear programme was in reality a weapons development project. That moment has arrived and it is significant that it should coincide with the advent of a Bhutto at centre-stage in Islamabad. After all it was her father who set Pakistan on the nuclear weapons path, vowing that his countrymen would eat grass but have the bomb. As it turns out Pakistan is going to eat its cake and have it too.

For long the US government certification that Pakistan does not have nuclear weapons capability was backed with several billion-dollar packages of conventional state-of-the-art weapons like the F-16 fighter-bombers, Stinger missiles, pre-emptive electronics and tanks on the excuse that a bloated arsenal would boost Pakistan's confidence vis-a-vis India enough to force it to abjure nuclear weapons.

It was a thinly-disguised plot and today the facade has been dropped like Salome's seventh veil leaving bare the fact that Islamabad now has a formidable conventional capability to complement the bomb in the basement, which by my calculation is as yet only aircraft deliverable (in a pinch which may not come because India is not about to match it screw for screw) but it can soon be converted to missile delivery with a little help from China, the US and its NATO allies who have severally contributed to the gradual accretion to Pakistan's programme knowing full well that its clandestine acquisition of strategic materials points only in one direction. China's direct contribution would be in the sphere of miniaturisation of the warhead to fit it to a missile thereby making it cost-effective and difficult to intercept (unlike an aircraft) and giving it a true strategic value.

Reagan's missive to Jim Wright is, to borrow a Kissinger term, a truly elliptical way of telling the world that the US has known all along the intent and purpose of the Pakistani programme; that the certification (mandatory under the Symington amendment which requires of the US Government to give an undertaking to Congress that the recipient of US military and economic assistance is not pursuing a nuclear weapons policy) was a ploy to enable a partner in the strategic consensus (with China in South Asia) to attain all the trappings that would enable it to fulfil its assigned role in the region.

It is no accident, therefore, that the Pakistani ambassador in Washington should brazenly admit that his country can cross the "threshold" whenever it wants. The calculation apparently is that the developing situation in Afghanistan would make it extremely unpopular for the Bush Administration to veto aid to Pakistan at this juncture and enable him to issue a waiver just as Reagan did (for the same reasons) during his tenure. The game-plan begins to unfold.

Now that Pakistan has announced that it has nuclear weapons capability (though it says it will not make the bomb), pressure is going to be applied on India to come to terms on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan's strategy (endorsed by the US and China as part of their perspective plan for the region) is to secure a settlement (for the time being) on the maintenance of the status quo in Kashmir, that is, that the two countries formally agree that each enjoys sovereignty over that part of Kashmir under its control. "For the time being" because there is no guarantee that Pakistan will not encourage Kashmir Liberation Front extremists to intensify insurgency in the Valley to try and secure its merger with Pak-occupied "Azad" Kashmir. Also, there is no guarantee that, just to spite India, Pakistan will not give "independence" to Azad Kashmir knowing full well the repercussions across the line of actual control.

That this is the general strategy for the region was evident from published US maps which showed the whole of Jammu and Kashmir as part of the "area of concern" of the US Central Command (CENTCOM) whose military tentacles would reach beyond Gwadar naval base and Karachi to Peshawar and Gilgit via Skardu. The last-named has long been part of the strategy to show actual control of Kashmir through alpine expeditions to the Himalayan peaks in norther Kashmir—a manoeuvre which alerted Mrs Indira Gandhi to the grand design and she ordered the induction of Indian troops onto the Siacheen Glacier to prevent any further land grab.

The almost simultaneous announcement of nuclear weapons capability and the missile test will trigger off the following scenario: Pakistan will flaunt its "threshhold" status and begin to make diplomatic demands of India with regard to Kashmir (this has already begun). There will be a lot of "double speak" with regard to Pakistani assistance to the Khalistani and the Kashmiri extremists (this too has begun with Pakistan's refusal to accept joint patrolling of the border under a unified command).

The US will mount pressure on India to hold more dialogues with Pakistan for peaceful solutions to bilateral problems. The whole exercise will be to maintain the status quo in Kashmir. Simultaneously, pressure is being applied by pro-US Indians to buy peace in the region by allowing the concept of status quo to prevail.

There have already been some preposterious suggestions for the creation of a no-man's-land along the line of actual control and retired military personnel have begun cribbing about the high cost and difficult terrain of the operations on the Siachen Glacier.

Not long ago the official media, Doordarshan announced that so far as India is concerned the Kashmir issue is settled. The bald announcement did not clarify how it came to such a conclusion but the Government by its failure to take appropriate action to dispel the impression created by the Doordarshan news confirms the suspicion that it was a calculated exercise in opinion control by subliminal methods.

Given the neutralisation of its predominant strength in conventional weaponry (though this can be negatived by appropriate measured responses to Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme); the appearance that the Government of India is buckling under external and internal pressure to come to terms with Pakistan on its conditionalities makes it easy to understand why the US is confident of "turning India around" to an acceptance of its perceptions in the region.

That the US has planned its moves far into India's end game is apparent from the steady accretion of conventional weaponry to Pakistan. The proposed package of over 4 billion dollars in the early 90s is designed to take care of any Indian attempt to neutralise the Pakistani nuclear strategy and return the equation to a more favourable conventional level by first matching Pakistani's nuclear trump; that and the emerging arms supply network within the region. Little wonder, then, that Pakistan is looking forward to having its nuclear cake and eating it too.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Says Enemies Waging 'Cultural' War

LD0203104389 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Esfahan, March 2, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here on a visit said Thursday while military inroads on Iran have ended the enemies are now waging a cultural battle with it.

Addressing a group of military and police forces at a meeting Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also acting commander of the Armed Forces said the enemies of Iran are now playing off other cultures of the world against Islam for cynical purposes, little knowing the depth of the religious sentiments of world Muslims.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iran's foreign enemies are unlikely to embroil Iran in another war at a near future, but indicated that another military aggression is still in the back of the minds of Iran's enemies.

Therefore, he said Iran's Muslim people and its Armed Forces should always be ready to defend the country and stand alert.

Jannati Says UK 'Meddling in Divine Justice'

LD0103181989 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—If the U.K. Government does not review its stance on the publishing of "The Satanic Verses" within a week and does not condemn its writer, Salman Rushdie, "ties wil be cut with London and will remain so till it comes to its senses."

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati referring to the Majlis' 7-days ultimatum to U.K., sounded the warning at a press conference today against Britain's meddling in divine justice which has added insult to already bleeding one billion Muslim hearts.

Imam Khomeyni's historical fatwah decreeing death penalty for the apostate "manifests the power of Islam throughout the world," added the head of the Islamic Propagation Organisation.

The imam's decree not only revealed the "folly of enemies such as the (12-member West) European community but showed that all Muslims—and not exclusively Shi'ites—supported the just decree," said the ayatollah.

In Islam, all five schools of jurisprudence are unanimous concerning death penalty for apostasy and the leader of the Islamic revolution's cool and confident fatwah has been widely acclaimed by all sections of the ummah.

The U.K. Government's rash defense of the Indian born criminal, on whose head hangs a 6 million dollar price has made Britain the butt of Muslim hatred. According to the 1.5 million Muslim community in the British Isles the government was informed and was well aware of the storm "The Satanic Verses" would create if published.

Ayatollah Jannati noted that the whole devilish plot proved "Muslims will never stand insults against their sanctities." He said "the pre-planned plot, intended to shake the Muslims' beliefs and weaken their growing power, has been foiled."

Says Islam 'Immune'

NC0203093889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The first news report of this hour is on the interview with the secretary of the Supreme Council for Islamic Propagation regarding the recent message by the imam of the nation, which you will now hear:

Mr Jannati, the secretary of the Supreme Council for Islamic Propagation, spoke about his holiness the imam's message and said: In the event of the implementation of the contents of the imam's message, Islam and the revolution will be immune from all danger. He added: From the time of its advent, Islam has been the target of various pseudo-religious people who, on the basis of false and outward piety and prejudice regarding Islam's various ideological issues because of their inadequate thinking process and lack of knowledge of Islam, have been the cause of numerous assaults of this very kind. This stratum has always opposed new thinking on the issue of the role of wisdom, ejtehad, [theological interpretations], and emulation, which are the basis of the perpetuation of Islam. They have inflicted blows on the religious 'ulema and created discord among Muslims, comparing the outward facade of Islam with a medieval church.

However, with its multilateral and deeply rooted movement, the Islamic revolution brought true Islam to the international political scene and showed its motivational aspect. The head of the Islamic propagation organization stated: It is binding on all those loyal to the correct Islam to identify these individuals in the seminaries and to banish them from society.

Regarding the imam's religious decree on Salman Rushdie, the head of the Islamic propagation department said: Although this person's action favors the wishes of imperialism and Zionism, it will end by benefiting Islam. Attempts to protect him will not save him. The revolutionary groups of the world have expressed their readiness to carry out the imam's decreed.

Alluding to the bill by the Majlis on severing ties with Great Britain, which received an overwhelming majority, the head of the Islamic Propagation Organization said: This proves that the protection of Islamic tenets and Islamic values is more valuable to us than anything else.

UK Ministry's Request for Talks Rejected

LD0203165189 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—The Islamic Republic has rejected requests by the British Foreign Ministry for talks on the Majlis' (Parliament) 7-day ultimatum to the London government in the Rushdie affair, disclosed an informed source at the Foreign Ministry today.

The source told IRNA by telephone that the Foreign Ministry has made it clear to the U.K. Government that the need for talks does not arise since the Majlis' position was quite clear.

On Tuesday, the Majlis approved a double emergency bill for a week's ultimatum to Britain to clarify its stance on Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses", or else Iran would sever ties with London.

The Foreign Ministry source, pointing out that Iran will in no way tolerate any insults to Islamic sanctities, said the Iranian people and officials have always been sensitive to the sacrilegious issue.

Rushdie's blatant insults to Islam, the holy Quran and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) caused the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni to sanction his execution on February 14, because under Islamic laws apostasy carries death penalty.

London has rashly interfered in the Satanic affair, providing cover to Rushdie, who is subject to divine justice.

The blasphemous novel, first published in Britain and then in the U.S.A. has unleashed the fury of over one billion Muslims on the Indian born author and the publishers Viking-Penguin.

UK Looks to Moscow for Help in Rushdie Affair

LD0103125189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1113 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Unatttributed commentary]

[Text] in the Name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The draft bill on severing full political and diplomatic relations with the British Government was submitted with double urgency yesterday to an open session of the Majlis and unanimously approved by the deputies. In the wake of the draft bill's ratification, the Majlis gave the British Government 1 week to declare formally its opposition to its unprincipled and rancorous positions on Islam and the Islamic Republic and also on

the blasphemous contents of "The Satanic Verses." Otherwise, our country's Foreign Ministry is obligated to break off diplomatic relations with London.

Publication of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses," which insults the sanctities of Islam, resulted in the declaration of a historic edict by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution, against the author and publishers of the book, who were well aware of their action. After that the entire world of Islam was engulfed in a wave of religious sentiments in defense of Islam, and Muslims throughout the world demonstrated their hatred against publication of this book and, in support of the imam's edict, demanded punishment of the book's author and publishers. The United States, several European governments, particularly Great Britain, which played a significant role in the publication of this book under the pretext of defending freedom of speech and safeguarding democracy, not only ignored the feelings of the Muslims, but they also concentrated all their political and propaganda efforts in defense of the author and publishers of the book. In line with the same policy the European Common Market recalled its ambassadors from Iran for consultation on this issue.

With this move, the European Common Market has now placed itself in confrontation with millions of Muslims, a confrontation which has created some difficulties for them right now. The decision of the Majlis to break off diplomatic ties with the British Government is a suitable reply from our country's deputies to those defending the ones who have insulted Islam and Muslims—a response which precisely corresponds to the heartfelt desire of the world Muslims.

Our country's Muslim people, who have gained much experience from the years of struggle against arrogance and the many sacrifices given in the defense of Islam and its values, see the recent decision of the Majlis as an appropriate move in line with the objectives of the great leader of the revolution. The British Government, despite all its historic experience, did not expect such a worldwide response by Muslims in the face of its hasty action. In addition, the British Government now faces the daily increasing opposition from British Muslims and other sections of their populace. In order to save itself from this opposition, which it partly brought upon itself, it has asked for diplomatic assistance from Moscow. In the opinion of informed observers, in view of the ratified draft bill of the Majlis, the British Government can consider continuing diplomatic relations with Iran only by distancing itself from its previous policies; there is no other way politically. In addition, it is clear that if London were to remain committed to its previous policies, it would face more oppositon from Muslims and become more isolated.

Thatcher on Possible Prosecution of Rushdie

LD0103131489 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] London, March 1, IRNA—Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has said she cannot interfere with the publication of Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" but has left the door open on the possibility of criminal prosecution.

"Freedom of speech and expression is subject only to the laws of this land, particularly libel and blasphemy, and will remain subject to the rule of law," she told parliament Tuesday in response to a question on whether she would backdown on the affair.

Opposition Social Democrat Leader Dr David Owen had asked if she could pledge that Iran's 7-day ultimatum on breaking relations would make no difference to her stance. Thatcher declined to give a direct response.

She argued free expression was "absolutely fundamental" to everything in which her government believed and that it "cannot be interfered with by outside forces"—a reference to Imam Khomeyni who has issued two fatwahs ordering Rushdie's execution.

Earlier the Iranian Majlis posed a challenge to London to alter its "unprincipled stand against Islam" by supporting the book, considered blasphemous by Muslims worldwide, or face a break in relations by March 7.

Britain has already withdrawn all its diplomatic staff from Tehran and Iranian diplomats in London have been recalled in retaliation.

Muslims in Britain have been campaigning against the book since its publication in London last September but their advice to use British courts to seek an injunction have been blocked at every hurdle, while the state public prosecutor has been sitting idly by.

Some lawyers believe the public prosecutor may be able to intervine even though blasphemy laws in the U.K. are based on offences to Christianity. They point out that immediate charges had been made against a piece of sculpture in December 1987 when it was considered so offensive that an archaic law was used for the first time against the artist for outraging public decency.

THE GUARDIAN newspaper Wednesday, considering Iran's challenge in more detail, believed the British Government was in a position to easily answer some of them. It suggested that Foreign Secretary Howe should have no difficulty in meeting Iran's demand to repudiate that Britain is opposed to Islam or against the Islamic Republic.

On the British Government's opposition to "The Satanic Verses," the paper further proposed that Howe could repeat something like the regret already expressed by Rushdie and the publishers about the distress the book has caused.

A week can "sometimes be a long time" and during which "some quiet enquiries" can be made, it surmised.

Mother of Prisoner in UK Rejects Cooper Trade
LD0103104689 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 1 Mar 89

[By Mohammad Javid]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29 [date as recieved], IRNA—The mother of an Iranian jailed in Britain says she opposes trading his release with that of a Briton imprisoned in Iran.

"I will not trade off my son with (Roger) Cooper who is a spy," said Hajiyeh Daneh-Anar Fuladi in a letter to the daily KEYHAN Tuesday about her son Kurosh. "This is also his (Kurosh's) view because it is an unfair deal."

Kurosh Fuladi was arrested an convicted on bomb making charges in London in December 1980 and sentenced to 11 years imprisonment.

Neither Fuladi's mother nor KEYHAN gave any indication that an exchange had been proposed by either country.

Cooper was arrested on spying charges in December 1985.

Information Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri [title as recieved] said on two weeks ago that legal proceedings had been completed and the judiciary was making a final decision on a "heavy ruling" against Cooper.

Cooper's brother, Paul, has expressed concern at British Government's attitude in the row with Tehran over THE SATANIC VERSES and has said recent developments may weigh against him.

The Majlis gave Britain one week until next Tuesday to revise its position regarding the blasphemous book or else face a complete break in diplomatic ties.

Fuladi's case was publicized on February 14 by Labour Minister 'Abdol Qasem Sarhadizadeh who also in a letter to KEYHAN said Fuladi had written about prison wardens urinating on him and subjecting him to sexual assaults.

Hajiyeh Fuladi wrote that she had personally seen "deep injury marks" on her son's body and he "had become disabled in the areas of the eye, hand and tooth as a result of repeated beatings."

His older brother Hasan told the paper that Kurash had become blind in one eye and disabled in one arm. "The injustices against him are tolerable because I know my son [as received] had a high ideal," though he had been put in jail without being guilty of a crime.

Under British law he would be eligible for parole after completing two thirds of his sentence.

Hajiyeh Fuladi also complained about the Iranian Embassy in London whose officials she had said had not shown enough concern about her son's plight.

Diplomatic Break With Britain Called 'Unique'
LD0103184689 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] London, Mar. 1, IRNA—Iran's initiative to sever diplomatic relations with Britain is thought to be unique in recent history.

The Foreign Office has no immediate recollection of any other country choosing to cut ties with the U.K. or at least not since World War Two.

A spokesman could only recall Britain taking the initiative to sever relations with other countries, like Syria, Libya and Argentina in recent years, rather than the reverse.

The move to end ties was overwhelmingly decided by the Majlis on Tuesday because of Britain's support for the publication of "The Satanic Verses" that is deemed blasphemous by Muslims worldwide, but allowed 7-days for London to reconsider its stance.

A severence in relations would put the U.K. with such countries as Israel and South Africa, with whom ties were cut immediately after the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Since the aftermath of the revolution, Tehran is not known to have initiated a break in diplomatic relations with other countries and in fact even retained ties with Iraq during years of Ba'thist aggression.

Paper Says UK 'Reluctant' To Sever Ties
LD0203073689 Tehran IRNA in English 0733 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—British Government official Wednesday [2 March] offered to negotiate with Tehran in relations with Salman Rushdie's scandalous novel "The Satanic Verses" which has chilled relations between the two countries since February 14.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI today quoted "certain reports" received by the paper that Britain is reluctant to sever relations with Iran and that it is prepared to adopt a proper stand in response to a motion by the Majlis for cutting off diplomatic relations with that country.

The motion passed Tuesday compels the Iranian Foreign Ministry to sever relations at all levels with Britain next Tuesday unless London "revise" its stand on the controversial novel, and its writer.

The intimation by Britain is an effort by London to rectify its stand, JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI said without giving further details.

KAYHAN Cited on Break in Ties With UK

LD0203100489 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—It is of paramount importance that those who determine foreign policy in the Islamic Republic fully evaluate the British Government's past and present conduct vis-a-vis Islam and Iran, an English daily said today.

Refering to the renewed anti-Islamic propaganda by Britain and the European Community, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL called an "unwise" move Tehran's decision to allow a British parliamentary delegation to visit Iran last June and the subsequent patching of relations.

The paper also criticized the Majlis for giving Britain one week time to alter its stand on the row over "The Satanic Verses."

From what the Iranian Muslim masses have experienced over the decades due to the West's coordinated hostile stance against the revolution and state, one week will change nothing, the daily said in an editorial Thursday.

"An overwhelming majority of lawmakers have voted to break ties and all but a few Iranians would like to see the decision of their representatives implemented without further delay," it noted.

The English daily warned Western capitals that nobody can afford to play with the religious beliefs of Muslims. "Break with London could be the first step in this regard."

Ambassador to Warsaw Interviewed on Rushdie Affair

AU2802161689 Warsaw SZTANDAR MLODYCH in Polish 24-26 Feb 89 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Abol Fazl Rahnama-Hazave'i, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by Wojciech Luczak: "Who Insults God..."; date, place not given]

[Text] [Luczak] Could you explain what has so deeply offended Iran and Imam Khomeyni?

[Rahnama-Hazave'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to explain that Salman Rushdie's book does not insult our people or our leader, Imam Khomeyni. What it does insult is Islam and all those who base their conduct on the principles of the Islamic religion. However, the most important thing is that the book is being used as an element in the propaganda campaign being waged by imperialism and Zionism. As for the way in which Western information agencies operate, Poland has been able to find that out for itself.

[Luczak] What exactly has Salman Rushdie been sentenced to death for?

[Rahnama-Hazave'i] As far as I can tell, the title itself already indicates what can be found in the book. I have to say that I cannot imagine that anyone in Poland, which is a deeply religious country, would dare insult the church or mock Jesus. However, if something of that kind were to happen, I do not think that the pope could remain silent.

According to the Islamic religion, the penalty to be incurred by someone who insults God, his prophet, or the word of God is death. The judgment is the same in any Muslim country and not just in Iran. So this affair concerns all Islamic countries.

[Luczak] Why then are other Islamic countries remaining silent, whereas Iran has reacted?

[Rahnama-Hazave'i] The Islamic countries are completely familiar with this judgment. So I suggest that you ask their representatives to express their positions....

If someone has a complaint to make to us, then they should read the book carefully, and they will then be able to say whether the book insults God, his prophet, or the word of God.

It is being said that taking a position against a book strikes at the right of publishing freedom and at the rights of man. However, it is the West that decides what is and what is not a human right. How can one talk about freedom when a billion people all over the world have been offended. If you live in an apartment you behave in way that does not disturb your neighbors living in the same building....

[Luczak] Does this mean that according to Islamic law death is the penalty for anyone who acts against God, the word of God, or his prophet?

[Rahnama-Hazave'i] Yes, Islamic law is quite clear about that.

[Luczak] By reacting so fiercely, do you not think that you have inflamed the situation and provided Rushdie with additional publicity?

[Rahnama-Hazave'i] I agree that this has provided publicity. However, we were not responsible for it. The whole commotion, the EEC session, the articles, and campaigns—all that is the work of the West. Besides, these possibilities are not available to our propaganda. However, do you think that there would be no commotion if we remained silent? The people who published "The Satanic Verses" knew perfectly well what they were doing. I think that they know more about our religion than might be imagined. Their plan of striking at Islam is obvious, and that is why we had to react.

I can tell you one more thing that is frequently overlooked in press reports. It was not Imam Khomeyni who issued the sentence against Rushdie. He simply stated

what stems from the principles of our religion. As far as we are concerned, the matter is closed. At the moment only the West is creating a commotion about it.

During recent centuries the colonial powers have grown accustomed to waging a struggle against Islam. This struggle has been intensified following the Islamic revolution in Iran. Particular efforts are being made to prevent Islamic ideology from spreading to other countries. This is why the sacred Islamic religion has been insulted. The plot that was initiated by the publication of Rushdie's book is one way of waging the struggle. All this has been cunningly put together and it marks just the first stage in the realization of a plan.

Majlis Deplores India's Treatment of Muslims

LD0103182389 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—Some 125 members of the Majlis signed a communique today supporting the demonstration of Indian Muslims against "The Satanic Verses", and expressed concern over the bloody police crackdown on peaceful protesters.

On plots of global arrogance against the deprived Third World people, the deputies cautioned that revolutionary nations should not allow sanctities of millions of people to be trampled upon.

The deputies also criticised India which despite its claims of freedom of thought, baton charged Muslims who were peacefully protesting against oppressors.

Around 20 Muslims were martyred and scores of others wounded during demonstrations in India and Pakistan against the apostate Rushdie's blasphemous book which has injured Muslim sentiments.

Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [edict] calling for execution of the British author has been widely welcomed by Muslims around the world, and protests against the devilish plot are mounting in all major cities of India, which has nearly a 200 million strong Muslim population.

Majlis Deputies Debate Diplomacy Issue

NC0103205589 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Feb 89 pp 4, 9

[Excerpts] The first pre-agenda speaker at the 19 February Majlis session was Mr Musavi-Lari, the Tehran deputy, who expressed his gratitude for the people's massive participation in the 11 February marches. [passage omitted]

In part of his speech, the deputy said: The unwarranted sensitivity which is being created with regard to relations with other countries is undermining the Islamic Republic. He added: Diplomacy based on degradation will be harmful to the future as well as the present Islamic revolution. In my opinion, the tactics being adopted for strengthening ties with countries, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Great Britain, are devoid of the revolution's essence and bereft of dignity. These tactics do not conform in the least with the honor of the noble Iranian people. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are the two arms of the Ba'thist criminals who are party to all crimes of the 'Aflaqis ruling Iraq. Have we forgotten the martyrdom of hundreds of Muslim men and women whose blood was spilled on the ground of the house of divine peace? Have we forgotten that those at the helm of affairs in Kuwait placed all their facilities at the disposal of the executioners ruling Iraq? Why should some of our Foreign Ministry officials take a weak and humiliating positon and grovel before these lackeys, asking that the past be forgotten and ignored?

The history of our country bears ample evidence of the deceit and the atrocities perpetrated against us by the British. [passage omitted]

In my capacity as one elected by the people and one who has suffered numerous wounds inflicted by the malicious British, I warn the esteemed foreign minister that our people will not tolerate any continuation of British colonialism. Unless an official apology is tendered by the British Government for its latest crime, we should refrain from any kind of normalization or upgrading of ties. It would be far more beneficial to preserve the values of our revolution than to preserve such ties. [passage omitted]

Another pre-agenda speaker was Mohammad Qomi, the Varamin deputy, who stated: World oppression will never halt its confrontation and vendetta against us, and will continue its efforts to tarnish our ideological nobility and to divert us from the path of our religion.

He also addressed the Foreign Ministry and said: Why is it that our Foreign Ministry—which is the guardian of our national and Islamic values—did not complain until months after the book ["The Satanic Verses"] had been awarded the book of the year prize, while it continued to take steps to improve and restore relations with the British Government? The British Government and the Black House in Washington did not hesitate to treat the imam's legitimate decree in an utterly shameless manner, even though this decree is the written call and the demand of one billion Muslims.

Our country is quite aware of the role of the news agencies affiliated with the imperialist media, but there is very little knowledge of imperialist publishing houses such as Viking and Penguin, despite the fact that these organizations' role in disseminating the cultural propaganda of imperialism is equally great.

He then attacked the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stated: Why is it that important talks on topics such as the lofty status of the prophet's daughter, God's peace be upon her, can be carried by the nationwide network, yet the voice and the fervor of the

Hizballah nation—which had participated with the Majlis deputies on the call by the students who are followers of the imam's line supporting his historical decree in denouncing the United States and the old hyena of Great Britain—is not carried? Why were the crushing slogans of the Hezbollah nation, heard during the march from the university to the British house of corruption [embassy], the speeches of the esteemed Majlis deputies, and the vociferous and categorical warnings of the adopted resolution, not carried in any form in the Voice and Vision programs? [passage omitted]

RESALAT Notes Attack on Rushdie's 'Treachery'
NC0103215289 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Feb 89 pp 5, 6

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The second pre-agenda speaker of the 21 February Islamic Majlis session was Mr Sadeq Khalkhali, who spoke of the rural farmers' difficulties in telephoning Tehran. [passage omitted]

The speaker then referred to the treachery of Salman Rushdie and said: Rushdie has taken blasphemy to such heights that we feel ashamed even to talk about it, God knows, at our Majlis sessions. He has attributed the most degrading and shameless acts to Bilal Habashi [prophet's associate] and to the noble prophet's wives, on whose character the chapter "Al-Nur" was revealed [in the Koran]. He has also desecrated the sanctity of the holy prophet, peace be upon him, in a most despicable manner. The Iranian nation and Muslim people all over the world should recognize the hand of world oppression.

Regarding the EEC's severing relations with Iran, the Qom deputy said: The EEC is threatening us with severing relations. Every country seems to want to sever relations with us or to impose an economic boycott on us. We are not [word illegible] because of Islam and our revolution. We are living in conditions of an economic embargo as our revolution is an Islamic mission. These relations do not have any importance for us.

He continued adding: You (British), when you had ties with us, you sent a number of spies to our country. These spies are now in our prison and will soon receive retribution for their acts. We are not afraid of such actions or problems, so there is no point in threatening us. [passage omitted]

The last pre-agenda speaker was 'Ali Rahim Yusef-Pur, from Ardal and Farsan, who spoke on the decree calling for Salman Rushdie's execution. He said: It is hoped that with the spread of opposition against those who hatched this plot, the true strength of the Islamic ummah in its resistance against the world devourers will be proved so that the false proponents of freedom and democracy will refrain from committing further acts. [passage omitted]

Mr Yusef-Pur then criticized the policies of the newspaper KEYHAN in Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari District and said: I wish to convey to the eminent jurisconsult [Montazeri] that the officials in charge of the KEYHAN newspaper in Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari District have made a 180 degree turn against your instructions and the laws of the press. They have been publishing lies and falsehoods against the governor general, the industrial organizations, the Hezbollahi brothers, and Majlis deputies, thus creating an atmosphere of mistrust, and disrupting the unity and harmony of the area. Despite numerous complaints to the local judicial authorities in the province, no action has been taken against these officials on the KEYHAN staff. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri had complained of the monopolistic nature of newspapers. We do not care so long as lies and falsehoods are not disseminated regarding the true scions of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Majlis Decision on Diplomatic Ties
LD0103210489 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Political commentary: "Rupture of Diplomatic Ties Between Iran and Britain"]

[Text] While the stormy events concerning Salman Rushdie's Book "The Satanic Verses" has affected diplomatic and political ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and some West European states, the Islamic Consultative Assembly yesterday, 28th February, in order to clarify the obligations of Iran's Foreign Ministry vis-a-vis anti-Islamic foreign plots approved a legal bill.

According to this bill, the British Government has been given a maximum period of 1 week to officially announce its opposition to its improper posturing against the Islamic world, the Islamic Republic and the contents of the sacriligious book "The Satanic Verses." Otherwise, all political ties between the two countries will be severed.

In the opinion of political observers, recent decision of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and Iran's demand from Britain are fully within the framework of the principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and these are not repugnant at all to the international law. The publication of the book "The Satanic Verses", which in the unanimous opinion of all Islamic sects is a blasphemous book and whose author deserves the maximum punishment, is a completely religious matter; and religious leaders are dutybound to adopt the stance against the book in accordance with Islamic laws. This stance is a cannonical law of Islam, whenever a Muslim from any nationality insults the holy prophet and Islamic sanctities is to be condemned to death; and hence issuance of such a decree by Imam Khomeyni against Salman Rushdie and its confirmation by Islamic community is a completely religious matter; with the political posturing of the member states of the European Economic Community, EEC, on the issue being construed as an absolutely unrelated step.

The British Government in its capacity as the instigator of the EEC in adopting hasty decisions should have discerned the point that the world Muslims' reactions towards Salman Rushdie is in no way tantamount to interference in Britain's domestic affairs. Rather it is a completely religious subject. However, the British Government, contrary to existing evidence and documents, (?some time after coming across Muslims') opposition to the book "The Satanic Verses," endeavored to raise up in defense of Salman Rushdie and his book under the pretext of defending the so-called freedom of expression. Such an act greatly affected British ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In view of the performance of the British Government as a protector of the anti-Islamic campaign in Europe and the persuasion by it of the EEC member states, corroborating such a move the parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran has now given an opportunity to the British Government that if in this event it does not intend to adopt improper [as heard] postures vis-a-vis the Islamic world and the Islamic Republic of Iran, it should officially announce the same. In the absence of such an act that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its capacity as a country believing in the principles of Islam and in protecting the aspirations of all world Muslims will be dutybound to sever its ties with the British Government.

'Rash' Action of West Benefits USSR

NC2802111789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 89 p 2

[Editorial: "West Losing Over Its Defense of 'Satanic Verses'"]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is on his way to Iran. He most probably carries a message from Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran Imam Khomeyni. He is also to meet Imam Khomeyni who will receive Shevardnadze in his first foreign political meeting over the past years.

As such, Irano-Soviet ties will be promoted to an all-time high. Meanwhile, two important countries of the Eastern Bloc Yugoslavia and Romania host Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and preparations are being made for a visit by Majlis Speaker and Acting Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani to these two countries.

The Soviet Union has effectively diminished anger and hatred of the world of Islam by its prudent pulling out from Afghanistan. And Shevardnadze, by visiting several important Islamic countries, is in fact re-considering Soviet relations with Arab and Islamic nations. Thus, while expanding and consolidating ties with Iran at the highest level, the East is remolding its relations with the world of Islam at large.

On the contrary the West, by supporting Salman Rushdie's "Satanic Verses", is on the verge of a serious confrontation with the world of Islam. The West has launched extensive efforts to counter the "fatwah" issued by Imam Khomeyni in order to rob the edict of its proper effects. The truth of the matter is that Muslims all over the globe hold nothing so sacred as the Holy Prophet of Islam and the Holy Koran. All Islamic sects are unanimous in unqualified opposition toward blasphemy on these sanctities and they all sanction the same punishment for the offense. Moslems regard such offense "an aggression on religion" and view this "aggression" even worse than aggressing land, life, property, and honor.

Undoubtedly, further support meted to Rushdie's book by the West will only serve to strengthen the Muslims' unity in word and action. Instead of defending this blasphemous book, the West should have sympathized with Muslims by denouncing blasphemy on religious sanctities, as this would have effectively pacified Muslims psychologically and mentally.

Imam Khomeyni's "fatwa" is not new in nature. It has a precedent of 1,400 years and has been often repeated in various treatises written by 'alims [religious scholars] of all Islamic sects. Freedom is held in utmost reverence, so long as it does not lead to violation of the freedom of others and an offense to the belief of others. Human rights are also revered so long as rights of a society of over a billion are not violated. Terrorism too is amply flayed but so long as no one embarks on terrorizing the beliefs and religion of a large population of the world Muslims.

It has to be understood that to defend religious sanctities and action to stop aggression on them is not terrorism. Insult to religion is denounced everywhere. Unfortunately, the West has fallen into a trap of defending insult to a world religion.

The EEC move to recall envoys from Tehran, as announced yesterday, was indeed a rash one. The Zionist lobby to push EEC to confront Iran has certainly played a role in this as Israel does not want to see any improvement in Iran's ties to the West and the Persian Gulf nations.

Besides the Zionist involvement in publication and distribution of "The Satanic Verses" is a fact to reckon with as Zionism regards Islam its most staunch adversary.

However the West's confrontation over a rightful cause i.e. Iran's defense of Islamic sanctities is only to the benefit of the USSR. Moscow will certainly leave no stone unturned in winning Iran's confidence now that the West has so outrageously moved to confront Iran which only is trying to defend the honor and sanctities of the world of Islam.

Commentary on Anti-Rushdie Protest in France
LD0103213689 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Political commentary: "Demonstrations in France"]

[Text] Muslims residents in France in one of the unprecedented (?protest marches) for the past several years, strongly denounced the publication of Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" and called for his punishment on the charges of showing disrespect toward the prophet of Islam and Islamic sanctities.

The (?past) protest has caused concern among the official circles of the French Government, and the French Premier Michel Rocard in a reaction to the protest rally has said: Based on French laws any call for violence and killing of anyone in any form will be strongly and legally dealt with by the judiciary. French President Francois Mitterrand too has made identical comments. It is said that the French Government officials have made those statements following Mrs Thatcher's trip to France.

Mrs Thatcher, the prime minister of the British isles, arrived in Paris last Monday and met with Mr Mitterrand in the Elysee Palace. It appears that Britian has twice persuaded its European allies to adopt a hostile posture vis-a-vis these Muslims.

Other statements made by the French officials in the wake of this meeting are indicative of the acceptance of such a corroboration by the Paris authorities. It is indisputable that the French Government in an attempt to rid itself of this serious pressure brought about on the account of this sacrilege to Islam is trying to find more allies for itself.

In secret letters sent to the heads of European states as well as other allies, the British foreign secretary has persuaded them to adopt a posture against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Muslims. This comes at a time when world Muslims, especially those in Europe, are showing strong reaction against the dimensions of this plot hatched by Britain and other European states against Islam in seeking the implementation of Imam Khomeyni's religious decree, fatwah, concerning Salman Rushdie.

Regrettably, some European figures who consider their countries to be among the pioneers of freedom of expression and belief are these days exactly making certain statements which go against their own traditions on [words indistinct] for freedom. For instance, Mr Laurent Fabius, former French premier, has spoken in a manner as if while believing in the freedom of expression on the part of someone who has caused the Islamic world's wrath, Mr Fabius may ignore the freedom of belief of one billion Muslims.

At the same time, his comments are now considered to be the official view of the French Government. In view of the indignation expressed by the Muslims resident in France, Mr Fabius ought to have pondered further prior to making such comments.

Paper Assails Austria's Position on Rushdie
LD0203102989 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Deputy for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani Wednesday criticised the Austrian foreign minister for having deplored Iran's stand on the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses," reported the English daily TEHRAN TIMES on Thursday.

Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock in a television interview on Tuesday said "Austria identifies itself very closely with the stand taken by the European Community in its diplomatic protests against the call to kill Rushdie."

Furthermore Mock said that because of Iran's stand towards Rushdie and his book he will not send Austrian ambassador Manfred Kiepach back to Tehran at a near future. The ambassador is now in Vienna on a routine home visit.

The paper quoted Larijani as saying "The Austrian minister should... keep various parliamentary systems in his mind before commenting on any topic such as the Rushdie scandal."

Culture Minister Writes to UNESCO About Book
LD0103191689 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i denounced the West's cultural aggression against Islam through its support for "The Satanic Verses", and said the West's reaction to Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [religious decree] against the author was indicative of its hostility to Islam.

Khamene'i made the remark in a session of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council.

Meanwhile, Culture and Higher Education Minister Mohammad Farhadi in a letter to the director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) Federico Mayor asked him to condemn Salman Rushdie's anti-cultural move.

"We believe the British author's book is against the ideals of UNESCO, and as believers of Islam, we consider it as an insult against Islam, in the disguise of freedom of expression", he said.

Ahvaz Marchers Support Khomeyni Edict on Rushdie
LD0103130889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Summary] In order to decisively show support for the important and wise mesage of the imam of the ummah and also to condemn the latest conspiracy of global arrogance in its support for the writer and publisher of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses," the main thoroughfares of Ahvaz were the scene of marches staged by seminary students and lecturers, clergyman, religious judges, Friday prayers leaders, and various groups of inhabitants of this city. The Friday prayers leaders of Abadan city also joined in with seminary students of the Imam Khomeyni Seminary. The marchers declared their "support, paragraph by paragraph, for the important and enlightening message of the imam of the ummah and the renewal of their unwavering allegiance to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and expressed their readiness for any kind of self-sacrafice and struggle in fulfilling the goals and instructions of the leader of the Islamic revolution".

The marchers, chanting slogans such as "While blood runs in our veins, Khomeyni will be our leader," "Death to America," and "Death to Britain," also condemned the recent actions taken by the EEC and the new plot by world arrogance.

Inhabitants of Zanjan also staged a huge march to mark their renewed allegiance to the imam of the ummah and leader of the Islamic revolution. The marchers also carried placards with slogans in support of the "historic" message of the leader of the revolution and chanted slogans such as "Death to America, Britain, and Israel" and "We swear on the blood of the martyrs—Rushdie, we will kill you".

Inhabitants of Shahr-e Kord staged similar marches chanting slogans such as "Death to America," "The blasphemous Salman Rushdie should be executed," "O imam, O imam, we heard your message," and, "We are all your soldiers, O Khomeyni, we await your orders, O Khomeyni".

Afghan Mujahidin Cleric Supports Khomeyni Decree
LD0103103689 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., March 1, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni Tuesday denounced the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses" describing it a "plot against Islam."

The ayatollah here on a pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.) [God's peace be upon him], the eighth Shi'ite imam, told IRNA Imam Khomeyni's fatwah against Salman Rushdie was a divine and religious edict on which both Shi'ites and Sunnis agree.

On the situation in Afghanistan, he said the interim government of the seven-party alliance in Peshawar was not legitimate because it ignored the rights of the Shi'ite groups. Most of the Sunni Afghans do not consider it as their representative, he added.

He stressed that the eight party alliance of the Afghan mujahidin based in Iran will ultimately attain their rights. However, the Peshawar groups must assume responsibility for their action, he added.

Ayatollah Mohseni reiterated that the future Islamic government in Afganistan must be formed by committed personalities "who have proven their devotion to Islam and the Afghan people in the course of the 10-year struggle."

Turning to the situation inside Afghanistan he said four provinces were on the verge of total collapse and that many officers of the Kabul regime had asked for writs of pardon from the movement.

On the activities of his movement he said recently a communications center of the Kabul regime's Information Ministry and several other economic points had been destroyed by the movement's guerrilas.

Cabinet Discusses Shevardnadze's Visit
LD0103174189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] At the cabinet meeting today cabinet members were briefed on the talks held between the USSR foreign minister and Iranian officials. The cabinet expressed the hope that in the atmosphere created by the message sent by Imam Khomeyni to the Soviet leader and his reply will pave the way for political, cultural, and economic exchanges between the two countries, as well as call attention to religious principles.

At the cabinet session the problems of executive departments in the area of implementing the law of manpower realignment were surveyed. Stressing the need to reduce personnel [of state departments] as well as the need to halt the unplanned proliferation of executive departments, the cabinet placed emphasis on the law of manpower realignment within the designated time limit. The Organization for Administration and Employment was charged with the task of creating the necessary facilities and supervising the implementation of the law by coming to an understanding with the different departments.

At the end of the cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Musavi made remarks on the Majlis bill to sever relations with England. He said: British policy has always been hostile to our country. In the Salman Rushdie affair Britain holds the strings for all the plots. It is natural that if the cases which the Majlis has announced fail to materialize, then the government will sever its diplomatic ties with that country.

Mr Musavi added: Happily, there are signs that the just and fair forces in the world are now realizing the depth of the conspiracy against the beliefs of 1.5 billion world Muslims. These forces will gradually learn that condemning that measure has nothing to do with limiting freedom of writing and speech.

Tehran TV Commentary

LD2802233289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1632 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Following the dispatch of the historic message of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, to the leader of the Soviet Union—which was hailed as a historic turning point—the relations between the two countries have now entered a new phase in expanding good-neighborly ties.

The bright panorama of these relations are evident more than ever before now that the Soviet leader's special envoy has visited Tehran carrying Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's reply to the imam's message.

In his message addressed to the Soviet leader—a message which laid the groundwork for a historic development in the Islamic Republic's foreign relations—his holiness the imam briefly reviewed the difficulties and complexities of the capitalist world and the communist world. He then summarized the yardstick for understanding the materialists and those who believe in God.

In his message, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran invited Mr Gorbachev to engage seriously in researching and learning Islam, because the lofty and universal values of Islam can provide salvation and comfort to all nations and loosen the knot of humanity's basic problems.

The dispatch of the message from the leader of the world's Muslims to the Soviet leader—which was motivated by the need to discharge the duties of being the Islamic source of authority [Marja'iyat], which necessarily includes comprehensive ideas on politics—at the same time opened a new chapter in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR. As the special envoy of the Soviet leader said, the exchange of these messages is a turning point which helps to expand the good relations of the two neighborly countries of Iran and the USSR in all areas.

This point was also raised by Mr Gorbachev when he met the imam's special envoys. It was also agreed on by the Iranian parties.

Political observers believe that the Soviet foreign minister's visit to Iran—which took place with regard to the his highness the imam's message and Mr Gorbachev's reply—is an important step in the relations of the two countries.

Though in the past the Afghanistan problem and the Iran-Iraq war were fundamental barriers to the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR, it now seems that the removal of these obstacles and the current developments in the Soviet Union—which have come into existence with the coming to power of the new leadership—have paved the ground for further expansion of relations.

In view of the fact that the two countries maintain close positions in international issues—especially with regard to the Persian Gulf and the presence of foreign forces in that region—it is expected that the expansion of ties within the framework of the important development in the recent contacts between the two countries will lead to establishment of lasting and solid peace and security in the region and the world. It is especially so because Soviet foreign policy considers its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran an important and independent axis.

Undoubtedly, the important and historic positions of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the world's Muslims, with regard to the Soviet policies and to the imposed war and the Afghan problem—which from the very beginning of the occupation of that country was correctly said to be a great mistake—have been instrumental in the USSR's correcting its foreign policy and its view of the Third World and the Islamic world. This proves to what extent the two countries' efforts to maintain the new trend in expansion of the bilateral ties are necessary and important.

In view of the developments in recent years in the USSR which have been brought about by Mikhail Gorbachev, it now appears that the number of traditional points of disagreements between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR has been shortened. Because of that, it is expected that by utilizing the existing atmosphere in bilateral relations, the volume of political and economic cooperation between Iran and the USSR will increase.

On the other hand, it has been said that with due regard to the talks the USSR foreign minister has had in Tehran as well as the signing of two important political and cultural agreements, the visit of the representative of the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium to the Islamic Republic of Iran will be a turning point in the relations of two neighboring countries.

Paper Lauds Gorbachev's 'More Realistic' Views

LD2802185189 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 28 Feb 89

["Press Review: Reforming Soviets Better Than Ideologically Static Westerners"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—The Persian daily ETTELA'AT in its Tuesday issue reflected on Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Tehran Saturday and messages exchanged between Imam Khomeyni and Mikhail Gorbachev as developments indicating that the Soviet leader

has a more realistic world view than any of his predecessors. It said if "Mr Gorbachev had not demonstrated a mentality substantially different from the stereotype convictions of his former colleagues he would not have received a message from Imam Khomeyni at all."

In the light of Shevardnadze's visit this week and its coinciding with the recalling from Tehran of ambassadors of the 12-nation European Community (EC), the daily commented that the West is likely to conclude that Iran is approaching the Soviets simply because it is distancing herself from the West.

But, it said, foreign personalities who know Imam Khomeyni better than others, know also well that the imam adheres to purely religious and spiritual values in his each and every act rather than be prompted by materialistic, political, or diplomatic considerations in their present-day senses.

The paper said "The more Mr. Gorbachev should manage to disengage himself from the tangle of dogmatic, fossilized and reactionary thinking of the materialists, communists and Marxists, and the more he can open the gates of his inquistive mind and soul to facts and realities, the more just and the closer he will find himself to the ultimate reality. But the Westerners simply do not comprehend that far."

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Tehran Saturday for an official three-day visit carrying a message to Imam Khomeyni from Mikhail Gorbachev. During his stay in Tehran he had the honour of an audience with Imam Khomeyni, and also held talks with other Iranian officials among them President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Premier Hoseyn Musavi and his counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Shevardnadze's memorable meeting with the leader of the Islamic revolution coincided with widespread and fervent anti-Iran propaganda in the Western media over the imam's just fatwah [religious decree] against Salman Rushdie who authored "The Satanic Verses," a thinly veiled attack on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him], which has since aroused Muslim sentiments worldwide.

Larijani Says Country Must 'Export' Islam

LD0103142789 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—The revolution in Iran is an intellectual one not necessarily confined to national boundaries, and neither does the Islamic Republic consider itself as simply another Muslim state "but the capital of the Muslim world and a land on which Islam was reborn," said Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani today.

He recommended that the strategy and foreign policy guidelines of Islamic Iran be formulated with due respect to same considerations.

Larijani, speaking at a debate organised by the Muslim Students Association of Tehran University warned that "if Iranians fail to export the Islamic revolution then Iran will lose its pivot position turning into just another Muslim state."

The Foreign Ministry official in charge of Euro-American affairs agreed that the architects of the Iranian society should know history, but commented that the duty of Iran's Muslims today is not to offer a facsimile of a past Muslim nation but rather create a new order based on the principles of their faith.

Mir Salim Comments on Trip to Tokyo

LD0103183989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Mr Mir Salim, senior presidential adviser, who traveled to Tokyo to take part in the burial ceremonies of Emperor Hirohito, held an interview with a Central News Unit reporter, in which he noted to the meetings he held and the results of his trip. He said: In the meeting with Japan's Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, Mr Uno expressed interest in cooperation and in expanding relations with Iran and said that he will visit Tehran during the current Christian year to meet with Iranian officials.

Regarding issues relating to Resolution 598, the Japanese foreign minister expressed hope that the peace talks will progress and new developments will take place in this area. Mr Mir Salim added that in his meeting with the Indonesian president, Mr Suharto, he emphasized his country is ready to cooperate toward achieving true peace in the region.

Labor Minister Hospitalized After Heart Attack

LD0203081489 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—Labour and Social Affairs Minister 'Abdol Qasem Sarhadizadeh was confined at Martyr Raja'i Hospital here this morning following a heart attack last night. His attendant Doctor Fatemeh Mirza'i-Pur described his condition as "satisfactory".

Sarhadizadeh, 43, is one of the officials who has suffered severe tortures during the shah's regime for his anti-regime ideas.

Majlis Speaker Inaugurates Ammunition Factory

LD0103122189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Our correspondent, Baghban, reports on Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip to Esfahan Province to commission the first ammunition production line of the military industries complex of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

This morning, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, arrived by plane in Esfahan, and was met by officials at the airport. After arriving in Esfahan the Majlis speaker headed for the military industries complex where in his presence, the first ammunition production line of the military industries complex became operational. After inspecting various sections of this complex, Hashemi-Rafsanjani left for the Mobarakeh Steel Mill. During this tour, which was also attended by the minister of mines and metals and the governor and Majlis deputies from this province, the project manager briefed Hashemi-Rafsanjani about the production lines and the history of this complex. Different parts of this huge steel-manafacturing project were inspected by the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and by those accompanying him.

50 Drug Smugglers Hanged in Tehran, Other Cities
LD0103110189 Tehran IRNA in English 1059 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 1, IRNA—Another group of 50 international drug smugglers including two women were hanged in Tehran and 13 other cities Wednesday morning.

A statement issued by the headquarters in charge of anti-narcotics campaign said those hanged were found guilty of possesion, sale and distribution of more than 33,283 kgs of various kinds of drugs. Some were also found guilty of indecent acts, arms smuggling and theft.

Out of the group, 14 were hanged in Tehran and the others in Kerman, Tabriz, Hamadan, Sabzevar, Nahavand, Shiraz, Qom, Neyshabur, Gonbad, Esfahan, Birjand, Mashhad and Bakhtaran.

Since December 31 more than 200 drug smugglers have been hanged throughout the country.

Revolution Guards Arrest Drug Traffickers
LD0203100389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Members of four active gangs of narcotics traffickers were identified and arrested through the efforts of the Islamic Revolution Guards on the Islamic Revolution Committee of Qa'emshahr, Juybar, and Savad Kuh. Thirty-six kg of opium fell into the hands of responsible officials. According to a Central News Unit report, the arrested persons admitted to the purchase and sale of 104 kg of opium in the regions of Qa'emshahr, Savad Kuh, and Juybar. They were then handed over to judicial authorities.

Navy Conducts Maneuvers in Indian Ocean
LD0103140189 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—Iran's naval frigates teaming up with flights units displayed their capabilities as the region's most powerful navy, in maneuvers in the Indian Ocean today.

Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan did not specify the site of maneuvers, but said that several Iranian naval units were currently in the Indian Ocean and some were berthed at Dar es Salaam the Tanzanian capital.

The first group after crossing the equator, are on their way home towards the Persian Gulf, he said.

Another naval unit headed for the high seas this morning to join the fleet and are expected to make calls at ports of several friendly countries including Pakistan, he added.

The success of the mission is evident from the Navy's ability for long voyages without the help of foreign experts and to escort even the largest maritime convoys to Iran from the four corners of the world. Malekzadegan concluded.

Tehran Turkish Radio Details Islamic 'Duties'
NC2802143189 Tehran International Service in Turkish 24 Feb 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Interesting developments took place during Friday prayers that were attended by millions of Muslims in all parts of Iran this week. Against the background of the sensitive developments of the past few days, in which the Western world as a whole embarked on a show of strength against the Islamic revolution in connection with the book "The Satanic Verses," not to mention the regrettable move made by the so-called circles in Islamic lands to side with the enemies of Islam—who regard leveling abuses against the Koran and our prophet as an act of ingenuity—the Muslims in Iran participated in Friday prayers with an unusual degree of enthusiasm and emotion during the current week.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani led the Friday prayers in Tehran. The contents of his prayers concerned world public opinion in general. However, considering the strength and the objective of the argument in various media organs in Turkey during the past few days in particular, they closely concern the people of that country as well. As the clash of values and cultures between Islam and the Western world becomes more obvious, various circles in the world are making their positions known. Muslims, who are aware of their responsibility concerning criticism leveled against the Koran and the prophet and his companions, are fulfilling their duties and will continue to do so.

However, what can we say about a number of media organs, which in the face of ugly attacks on our prophet, have taken a position against the Islamic revolution instead of the enemies of Islam, and which have made the most unexpected insults?

To whom and how should the Muslims complain against the mercenary writers who remain silent in the face of the most disgusting and treacherous attacks by the enemies of Islam, or, regardless of the Koranic provisions, sympathize with infidels and treat the believers harshly whenever they speak?

Unaware individuals, is he not your prophet as well? Are the wives of the prophet, who have been subjected to so much blasphemy and contempt, not your moral mothers? Are the Koranic verses, which have been ridiculed, not in your holy book as well? Instead of learning a lesson from the effort made by the Iranian people who fought for 8 years, lost hundreds of thousands of martyrs, and suffered serious losses to defend the honor of Islam and the Muslims in the world against the disgusting attacks of blasphemous forces, a number of pitiful individuals, who claim to be Muslim, have been using their pens to attack Islamic Iran.

We advise our Muslim listeners to try all legitimate ways of foiling the plot of the infidels at the present stage of the clash between Western and Islamic values, and to awaken the unaware individuals who pursue an inappropriate and indifferent policy.

Dangers of Religious Free-Thinking Assailed

WA0302161089 Tehran PASDAR-E ESLAM in Persian Jan-Feb 89 pp 15-17, 50

[Text] In his kindness and generosity, God provides his servants with material and spiritual blessings. Whether one is thankful or ungrateful, divine blessings are the test and evaluation of a human being, whether in the form of today's astonishing civilization, natural material blessings, the celestial ethical and spiritual guidance from the divine books, prophets, saints, and the committed, compassionate clergymen, or the intellect and temperament in a human being that call him to good and warn him against evil.

Danger of Ingratitude for Blessings

One of the great divine blessings in our current society is the existence of an aware, decisive, and informed leadership. His awareness lights the way for our revolutionary and changing society. His decisiveness removes the obstacles to his exalted decisions and his awareness has given him the opportunity to bring about the necessary spiritual and material changes in society. If we do not appreciate the value of this great blessing however, we must expect the wrath of God, who himself has said: "If you are grateful I will do more favors for you, but if you are ungrateful, my punishment is terrible indeed." [Koranic verse]

Gratitude and ingratitude are not merely matters of the tongue and heart. We must show our gratitude to God by our actions, and if they are abused, it is the worst sort of ingratitude. The human body is a divine blessing. Therefore, if we fulfill our individual and social responsibilities with hands, feet, ears, eyes, intellect, awareness, and other God-given blessings, this is the best way to show our thanks and gratitude to God.

Danger of Erroneous Inferences and Abuses

The guidance and leadership from his holiness the imam are among the best blessings of this age. However, they are abused by deviators and opportunists. It is a painful injury when mankind makes use of divine revelations, the Traditions of the prophet, the words of the prophets and the imams, and the comments and guidance from the clergy, the great men of religion and the leaders of society in erroneous ways. In the celestial book, Almighty God has said how dangerous such erroneous inferences from the divine scriptures are.

The perverse of heart follow the allegorical, seeking discord, and searching for hidden meanings.

In Verse 54 of the Surah of the Cow and Verse 162 of the Heights Surah, the Jews are reprimanded because a command was given to them and they changed it to something else: But the transgressors among them changed the word from that which had been given them so we sent on them a plague from heaven.

Mankind is so arrogant that even while acknowledging and confessing the divinity of the Almighty, he changes his words, and thus is deserving of punishment. The Jews are reprimanded in four places in the Koran for distorting the words of God: "They perverted the word from its meaning," and "They perverted the word from the dimension of its meaning." Moreover, in Verse 75 of the Surah of the Cow it says: "They heard the word of God and perverted it knowingly after understanding it." In any case, this is one of the ways men of bad behavior conduct themselves. They change the word of God, not to mention the Traditions and sayings of the prophets or the guidance of the clergy and the society's religious leaders, for their own purposes or erroneously.

Promotimg Corruption

It has recently been seen that perverted, dangerous, and opportunist elements are trying, through the abuse of the imam's latest religious decrees, to lead society astray and draw it into centers of corruption and debauchery and to establish the same corrupt circles we had in the past by changing the name a little, and in good time, even the name and purpose of that time will follow. In this regard a group has adopted the ideas of this dangerous and perverted line, while another group is moving quickly and boldly to implement it. Another group, with deafening silence, is ignoring these events, and one fears that day when a disturbance will arise, which "will not affect only those of you who do wrong." [Koranic verse]

The group that is fueling this movement ideologically is writing serial articles in the newspapers and magazines, most of which we may not even have the opportunity to read. No organization has taken on the responsibility of overseeing the publication of such misleading writing, or perhaps they consider them a source of guidance and pride in society and a way to reach the promised land of civilization.

In one of those serial articles, unfortunately published in a newspaper with a wide circulation, the writer, star-struck by civilization, who considers himself a son of the Solomon of the age and is ashamed of the ideas of his ancestors, openly encourages listening to love songs, which made him think of high mountains, golden goblets, and desert air, and brought tears to his eyes while he was in prison. This in itself is the strongest reason for making songs and music religiously permissible, and what the theologians have said and are saying arises from the fact that they have not perceived reality, have withdrawn into a cave, have been deprived of this joy, and are lagging behind civilization. When he received a lot of criticism and protest in subsequent issues, he apologized, but only because of having mentioned the name of a woman who was a singer in the time of the idolaters, and, in his poetic way, he called that a "blemish" on those golden articles.

Is it really true that that woman's only sin was that she was a singer in the time of the idolaters? Must one praise the song she sang just because the lyrics include the name of God? Is the civilization that has stricken you so and which is unreachable because of backward circles made up of singing, dancing, and trite films? If this is the civilization you are making such a fuss about, it would be better if its gates were never opened to this country and this nation.

Walls of Ignorance and Superstition Must Be Broken Down

Of course, some of the material in those writings and their criticism of the seminaries is to an extent correct and appropriate, and we have no objection to their being discussed and made public, for we cannot think of a cure unless we understand the disease. There is no doubt that the seminaries must revise their instructional programs and consider not only society's current needs but also its future needs and that they must refrain from imitating and fossilizing the ideas of the past if they are not based on the principles of religion. As his holiness the imam has said: "We must try to break down the walls of ignorance and superstition so that we can arrive at the pure Islam of Muhammad, peace be upon him.

However, this absolutely does not mean that a new principle should be used in interpreting the commands of God, but rather that information from the events of the world, a new part of which is discovered every day, makes man more aware of the meaning of the commands. Of course, in the past, the theologians only cited the general commands and did not think about a way to interpret the circumstances facing society. The claim that the interpretation of circumstances is not the responsibility of the theologian, that it must be left to individual situations rather than to issues, which generally afflict society, and other such positions, has become so pervasive that it encompasses everything. However, the principle of interpreting commands allows for no way other than looking to the past, meaning to the Book and the Traditions.

For example, it was mentioned in this article that: "Alcohol destroys microbes, therefore, it is a cleansing ingredient!" This is ridiculing and mocking the statement in the treatise that says: "If alcohol is intoxicating it is religiously unclean and if it is not an intoxicant it is pure." This is due to ignorance of the commands and the restrictions of God. Ritual purity and impurity have nothing to do with the ability to destroy microbes. For example, numerous credible Traditions say that if something impure falls into liquid oil, all of it is impure. It must be used only for fuel, and it is forbidden to consume it. Yet, undoubtedly, its ability to destroy microbes is possible at any time. The pure imam was able to say to the people: "You may consume this type of liquid oil after boiling it!" Actually, some religiously impure things were so designated only to engender contempt, such as wine and other intoxicants. Otherwise, intoxicants are not necessarily fatal to microbes, but that some have antiseptic characteristics.

Of course some issues, indeed most of them, need reconsideration. So long as one doubts the certitudes of one's past and does not follow decisive and complete reasoning, he will never advance. This principle, which is true in all academic areas, also applies to theology, and the mere reliance on the renown of an issue and the words of prominent people will lead to academic stagnation.

Dissimulation From Followers

Here, it is necessary to note that dissimulation from the sacred masses, which has been regarded as a deficiency in clerical circles and in the dealings of the high-rankings ayatollahs, is an important social policy that must always be in the minds of society's leaders; this must not be condemned in the name of populism. This is the same dissimulation to which the imams, peace be upon them, attributed extraordinary importance. Dissimulation is not always used by the government and the lawmakers. Dissimulation takes various forms which would require a detailed discussion too extensive to be included here. One of those forms is the observance of the interest and capacity of society in explaining divine commands, and these are the very parameters which must be observed, along with the common people, by the leaders and clergymen. Not only the prophets and imams said these things, but Almighty God has also gradually sent down a religious law to the people.

The interests embodied in the divine commands require that God gradually call upon newly-converted Muslims to do good and to abandon evil and corruption. Therefore, at the beginning of Islam there were no obligations other than to say "There is no god but God," and the commands for worship, business, religious restrictions, and criminal retribution were made lawful gradually.

Corruption Must Be Fought at All Times

In any case, there is no room for doubt that there is a need for change and evolution in the seminaries, and this is not a new idea, for it has always been discussed among seminary reformers. Unfortunately, however, no important practical steps have been taken. However, this does not mean that you should throw progress and civilization into the face of the clergy and say that the seminary is against civilization. This is what the idolaters said, and the imam's answer was: "Who says we oppose civilization? We oppose corruption and debauchery." The same situation applies today, and there is no difference between the corruption which circulated in the time of the idolaters and the corruption in the age of the Islamic Republic, in the sense that it must be opposed.

There is no doubt, however, that the slightest corruption today is worse than the worst corruption of that time. Because it is a shameful stain on Islam, the seminaries and the clergy. In that day whatever happened was attributable to the idolaters and Islam was not accused. Today, whatever happens is associated with the name of Islam and the imam. It is painful that today men and women are singing the same songs with or without changes in the lyrics, just as they did in the time of debauchery. There are no differences other than name and title from the songs and melodies of former times, and they encourage and validate all of it and cite the imam's sacred religious decree. This is an unforgivable crime against Islam and the imam.

In the religious decree concerning the entertainers and their followers, his holiness the imam said that there are problems with certain radio music and the management of the Voice and Vision . He requested that the staff delete them from the programs. Really, since that day, what changes have been made in radio and television songs? Has not their course turned toward the popular melodies?

The management has not looked at its own announcement to see whether it has made changes or whether the announcement is similar to other encounters by officials with his holiness the imam's decrees, where they merely glorify and revere the decrees, and then put them aside and gradually forget them after kissing, framing, and inscribing them in gold. What happened to the Eight-Article Proclamation, the Haj Proclamation (the Revolution Decree), the Guidance for Reconstruction, the Order for Government Penalties, and finally the decree known as the Brotherhood Decree, and other such matters? That religious decree, like the other religious decrees and proclamations, was merely used by opportunists.

They only concerned themselves with the section which said that there were no problems with most of the music on the radio, and they even went a step further than that by making various kinds of songs and music permissible. These have even been broadcast recently by the radio as popular songs, while the section concerned with problems regarding some of the songs has been forgotten. They do this with the Koran: They only believe in parts of the Koran and they reject the rest. [Koranic verse] his decree had to do with songs on the radio which were much simpler than the taped songs which were circulated and were authorized by the Ministry of Islamic Guidance. It is not clea what other criteria these gentlemen use to distinguish the religiously lawful from the religiously unlawful. Apparently, they are using only artistic criteria. And apparently they are only concerned with the songs and music of today's wonderful civilization.

Stop This Dangerous Trend

If we also study this dangerous trend from a political point of view, it is frightening. Of course, it is not unlikely that some officials agree with this situation and are happy about the liberal policies sought by the irresponsible, because they want to use them to conceal administrative deficiencies, shortages, and malfunctions. It is similarly common in idolatrous governments to promote corruption and debauchery in the fullest sense to keep the people occupied and to silence the voices of protest. If some people have such thoughts, they are gravely mistaken, because the only visible support for this revolution are the pious, the Hezbollahis, the families of martyrs, and the warriors, who are severely angered, discomfited, and disillusioned by this situation. If you do not believe this, ask the families of the martyrs, the mosquegoers, the members of the mobilization, and the seminary students. As for the entertainers, dancers, ingers, musicians, and their friends and supporters, they will never be content and happy with this government. The more freedom you give them, the more confident they will become, the more freedom they will demand, and the floodgates will be opened. They will never be content to see a man in a turban as president or speaker of the Majlis. Do not be fooled by their claims of loyalty. Stop them before it is too late. If you are a politician, realize that the Friday prayers congregation is your base of support, and you must try to take an objective view. You are not supported by dancehall crowds. If you are religious and see your support in God and the Muslim people, there is no doub that this trend is not in the interest of social piety.

Studying the Temptations of the Misguided

It is said that this trend is a reaction against religious hardliners who have forbidden what is religiously lawful. It is of course true that forbidding what is religiously

lawful is just as sinful as making lawful what is religiously forbidden, and that the reaction in society is dangerous, but there are criteria for what is religiously lawful and what is religiously unlawful, and the criteria for forbidden songs and music are found in various religious decrees by theologians. His holiness the imam, may God prolong his life, has said in published treatises and religious decrees that the measure of religiously unlawful music is whether or not it is suitable for lewd and sensuous gatherings. As for content, it makes no difference whether the lyrics are false and suggestive of debauchery or true statements and revolutionary or ethical anthems.

They say that questionable cases are permissible because of possible false rumors. However, with this trend which we are witnessing, have we not crossed over to the impermissible? Do forbidden songs and music mean anything or not? The way the entertainers have been moving ahead, all kinds of songs and music will gradually become common. Even if the lyrics and their content are pious, it has no effect on the reverence of voice, although if the content is empty and corrupt, the reverence is enhanced. Lately they have gone a step further and even chosen the content according to their own desires. It is sufficient that it be simply poetry, the poetry of Sa'di, Hafez or Rumi, or if it is broadcast on television with film on the combatants of Islam, the content and everything changes. Is "O camel-driver, slow down..." a lyric that is revolutionary, ethical, or calling for war and jihad? What does this lyric have to do with the combatants of Islam? There is no doubt that these lies are intended only to abuse the simplicity of the believers and the clergymen and to advance the cause of corrupt people and entertainers.

It is said: Feyz Kashani did not consider the singing of the song "The Road" to be religiously forbidden. What is gathered from his words from Volume III, page 35 of his work, where he says that music means a good voice with a refrain is that music, by its nature, is not religiously forbidden. However, he goes on to say that singing by women in the presence of men using musical instruments such as ouds, flutes and the like are religiously forbidden. In conclusion, he says that people of discretion can separate the true from the false in music and that most of the songs of the Sufis are void and religiously forbidden. Therefore, he considers permissible only the type of singing that is with good voice and refrain, without any kind of instrumental accompaniment or vain lyrics and where a woman does not sing for men. Thus, this can never satisfy the desires of those who love passionate songs.

It is said: No music has been religiously forbidden in the "Traditions of the Prophet." This is truly strange. Do you expect to find the piano and other modern musical instruments forbidden in the "Traditions of the Prophet"? What was considered musical instruments in those days were clearly forbidden in numerous Traditions, part of which has been pointed out "Vasa'el." Refer to "Vasa'el" Volume II, pp 230-236, and of course this is just a small portion of the many Traditions mentioned in numerous chapters. This Tradition mentions the oud, the flute, the lyre, the drums, the tambourines, the pipes, and the like, all of which are severely condemned and forbidden.

Of course one can say: All of these [instruments] were forbidden as implements of debauchery. However, if one is not used in that manner, then it is not forbidden.

However, the lines of distinction must be preserved so that they are not stretched under the guise of questionable cases and cross over into what is absolutely forbidden.

Insults to Sacred Memory of Holy Persons (Peace Be Upon Them)

Another issue where the imam's religious decree was abused is the matter of the game of chess. His holiness the imam said that if it is not considered gambling, then there is no problem in playing it. In answer to Mr Qadiri, may God help him, he said: "However, if this matter has not been proven, then do not allow them to play it." Some people have abused this clear and plain religious decree and have taken all forms of gambling, whether there are winners or losers in it, to be permissible. Some people have presented chess, which was absolutely forbidden in the past, as a form of gambling and which was condemned in many Traditions, as a gift by Iranians to the world of Islam.

Even worse and more despicable, one writer, a so-called scholar, in a magazine calling itself a revolutionary and cultural organ and which is operated out of the Muslim treasury, rudely, shamelessly, and boldly mentions the imams of the house of God (peace be upon them), and especially His Holiness Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) and his family and His Holiness Zeyn ol-'Abdin (peace be upon him) and writes that he [the imam] was a skilled chess player! He also writes that His Holiness Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) would notice an erroneous move when he watched a chess game.

That magazine shamelessly printed the above material, which we report hesitantly and with misgivings, knowing that even reporting such a thing arouses disgust. Then in the subsequent issue in the introduction to the second part of that ugly and crude article, which was presented as research, it was said that the magazine is not responsible for statements made in its research articles. Can this apology, worse than the sin, justify the publication of lies and deception and insulting the pure and sacred memory of those of the house of God (peace be upon them)? Is silence permissible in the face of such crimes against the imams?

Why do not the clergy, the religious scholars, the Friday imams, the propagandists, the writers, the spokesmen, the representatives, and anyone who can make his voice heard in some way cry out against such crudeness and

shamelessness which is undoubtedly the beginning for future shameful studies. Why do they not punch the mouths of such perverse hypocrites? Why is it that the Islamic Guidance officials, who ought to prevent insults and boldness against the religious authorities and clergy, do not even protest against such open insults to the bastion of charity and purity?

What has happened? Why are all the sacred things gradually being questioned and even completely rejected without any reaction from the protectors of religion and the defenders of truth?

The rude writer of that article obtained his completely false subject matter and insults from the book "The History of Chess," by (Hans Mavari), and he found this historical material, which is found in no Muslim history book Shi'ite or Sunni, in an old hand-written manuscript. How is it possible that such material could be found in the history of Islam without any Muslim historian having seen or heard of it and then after centuries an unbelieving orientalist—and the enmity of orientalists for Islam and Islamic culture is plain and clear—finds it among some old unattributed manuscripts and then the uncultured researcher presents it as a credible historical document and makes such an insult to the sacred memory of those exalted and eminent people, who would never have played chess even if it had been allowed in that time?

Chess Reproached in Treatises

As for the gift that, according to this researcher, the Iranians gave to Islam, Imam Sadeq (peace be upon him) has rejected it. In a Tradition whose narrator is recorded in the books of great men, it says that the holy man, when asked about chess, said: "Leave what is religiously unclean to those who like it, but God curses it." There are a great many narrated Traditions condemning chess, and there are too many to need documentation, aside from the fact that some of them are even credibly documented. Of course, one might say from a theological point of view that the reason the Traditions forbid it is because it is used for gambling, and that if this element is absent and if it is used simply as an intellectual exercise, there is no problem. However, so long as it is used for gambling, it is forbidden.

A mistake in the late Ayatollah Khansari's guidance, rather than his documentation, is that he said nothing specific about chess. In general terms, he said that if a game is played with gambling devices, but nothing is won or lost, it is not forbidden. Of course, he acknowledges that it is empty and vain. However, he does not consider everything that is vain to be religiously forbidden.

Therefore, even assuming that chess becomes permissible today, because of a change of purpose, it was certainly forbidden then. Even assuming it was permitted, it is undoubtedly empty and void and a holy person is innocent of involvement with any kind of vain thing. In another Tradition about Imam Sadeq (peace be upon him), he was asked about chess and other games. He said: If God separates the true from the false, to which group do these games belong? The questioner answers: It belongs to the false group. The imam says: "Then there is nothing good in it".

In another question, the imam says: The believer is so busy he has no time to play. How can something the imam says the believer would not do be attributed to a chaste imam? This is an obvious insult, which he uses to conceal his own disgrace. This is exactly like what was done by the forgers of Traditions during the Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties, to justify the acts of the caliphs who were always hosting musical gatherings and nights of debauchery. They forged Traditions in which they accused the prophet of God (peace be upon him) of having seen gatherings for debauchery, singing, and music without protesting, and indeed of having listened himself, and indeed... Here something appears in the false Tradition of those purveyors of nonsense that a zealous Muslim will not repeat!

In any case, this dangerous tendency to spread debauchery and encourage corrupt, irreligious, and unethical gatherings and arts in the name of civilization, has not only made a plaything of his holiness the imam's religious decree, it has also insulted the exalted station of holiness and chastity. This must stop, otherwise these liberal tendencies will reach the point of being difficult to control.

TV, FM Transmitters Inaugurated in Kalat

LD0203121389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Powerful television and FM transmitters in Kalat, in Khorasan, began transmission at noon today with a ceremony. The transmitter brings the northern part of the country, comprising the frontier strip of Khorasan Province, extending from Sarakhs to Daragaz, under the cover of the first and second networks of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Kalat television transmitter, installed on the summit of (Zor) mountains, covers a site of 8,000 sq meters. Total building area covers a site base of 1,000 sq meters. The Kalat television station consists of two 10-kw television transmitters and two 10-kw FM radio transmitters. They have been installed and brought on line through the efforts of the expansion unit of the television network. For each one of the transmitters a reserve transmitter of 10-kw capacity is being considered. [passage omitted]

Maldives

Jameel Thanks Japanese Counterpart for Assistance

OW2602140589 Tokyo KYODO in English 0911 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—Maldives' Foreign Minister Fathalla Jameel on Saturday thanked Japan for its economic assistance to the tiny island nation in the Indian Ocean, Japanese officials said.

In a 15-minute meeting with his Japanese counterpart Sosuke Uno, Jameel expressed his gratitude, saying Japan is the biggest aid donor to the Maldives and that all projects funded by Japan were successfully and efficiently promoted.

Uno was quoted as saying that Japan will promote its international cooperative initiative in return for economic assistance given to Japan after the end of World War II. Jameel attended the state funeral for Emperor Hirohito.

Pakistan

NEWSWEEK Issues on Rushdie Book Seized

BK0203031889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The Pakistani Government has seized copies of the 27 February edition of NEWSWEEK and TIMES, which published comments and excerpts of the despicable book "Satanic Verses."

Spokesman Refutes Allegation on Government Media

BK2802160089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] An official spokesman has refuted the report published in certain newspapers that the government media has practically stopped reporting news about the opposition. The spokesman said that the radio and television, in pursuance of the democratic policy, are providing reports on statements of the opposition in the parliament about the government and on their activities with full attention. If there has been any mistake, then the mistake might have been due to the decision by personnel entrusted with news reporting. It depends on their own personal judgment whether a report should be carried or not. The government does not give them any direction as was the practice in the past.

The spokesman said the radio and television have recently carried reports on some opposition leaders who do not even have any representation in Parliament.

Ishaq Khan Confers Award on PRC General

BK0103155389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan conferred the Nishan-i-Imtiaz military award on General Qi Haotian, the chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of China, at a special function in Islamabad today. The award has been conferred on the Chinese visitor in recognition of his services for further stabilization of the existing friendly and cooperative relations between the armed forces of the two countries.

Karachi Shipyard Begins Work on Ship for PRC

BK0103032789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Work began yesterday at the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works on a 17,300-ton cargo ship for China. Federal Minister for Communications Makhdoom Mohammad Amin Fahim inaugurated the shipbuilding work. He called upon the engineers and workers of the shipyard to complete the construction of the cargo ship within the stipulated time. He said that the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation would be provided with credits at easy terms to enable it to order the construction of 14 more ships at the shipyard.

PRC To Assist in Manufacturing Tractors

BK2702053589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Pakistan and China are to cooperate in a joint venture for manufacturing small tractors with a capacity of 20 to 25 horse power in Pakistan. This was agreed at a meeting between Minister of State for Production Raja Shahid Zafar, and the leader of the visiting Chinese delegation, Mr Li Lanqing, in Islamabad today. They agreed to start assembling spare parts and manufacture tractors soon to meet immediate requirements. However, the entire work of manufacturing tractors will also be launched shortly. Possibilities were also explored for manufacturing power plants in Pakistan with Chinese assistance to overcome power shortages in the country. The Chinese delegation also offered assistance and cooperation to Pakistan to manufacture small cars with German and French technology in Lok.

The leader of the Chinese delegation, Li Lanqing, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today and briefed him on the deliberations of the Pakistan-China joint ministerial committee. Expressing satisfaction with the successful talks, the president said there are possibilities of cooperation between Pakistan and China for [words indistinct] projects in Baluchistan, for heavy machine casting in Taxila, expansion and modernization of heavy mechanical complex and for increasing various kinds of production. Mr Li Lanqing said his country is desirous of fully exploiting the great potential of economic cooperation with Pakistan.

Radio, TV Program Protocol Signed With USSR

BK0203092489 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Pakistan and the Soviet Union today signed a protocol for cooperation and exchanges in the field of TV and radio broadcasting during 1989-90. It provides for exchange of TV and radio programs depicting social, scientific, cultural, and sporting aspects in both countries. Both sides agreed to cooperate in covering the visits of Pakistani and Soviet delegations to the USSR and Pakistan and to exchange TV and radio programs for appropriate use on the national days of the two countries. The two sides shall exchange TV news stories and radio programs on the life of the Soviet and Pakistani people well as recordings of instrumental and folk music.

Editorial Commends Successful Missile Tests

BK2802124989 Karachi DAWN in English 13 Feb 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Defence Production"]

[Text] The successful testing of two Pakistan-made guided missiles is a matter of tremendous significance for this country and for the region in which it is located.

Coinciding with this momentous development, there are reports about plans being afoot to undertake indigenous production of tanks and jet aircraft. These are indicative of a significant advance in the manufacture of modern defence equipment. An ever-greater measure of self-reliance in defence production is a crucial factor in enhancing the country's capacity to defend its national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Given Pakistan's geopolitical location, the country can ill-afford to ignore the imperatives of national defence.

Preparedness here means not merely the armed forces' adequacy, both quantitatively and qualitatively but also a reasonably self-reliant armaments industry geared to our needs. At least two of Pakistan's Third World neighbours, India and China, have highly developed armaments industries producing sophisticated weapons and equipment. India, for instance, has not only tested its short-range guided missiles, but is pressing forward with the development of IRBMs [intermediate range ballistic missiles] with a range of 2,500 kilometres. One reason why India has reached this stage has been its insistence from the very beginning that any contract for joint ventures with a foreign agency for the assembly of armaments must provide for their eventual local production.

Today India is in a position to manufacture a wide range of defence items, including tanks and jet aircraft, with plans in hand for the manufacture of submarines and aircraft carriers. Where indigenous production is concerned, our achievements have been modest by comparison. The disastrous results of the policy of dependence became evident in the context of the 1965 war when the United States cut off the supply of spare parts and for a long time thereafter maintained a freeze on defence supplies to this country.

It seems that in the aftermath of the 1971 war, the risks inherent in such a policy were realised and attempts were made to develop the basic infrastructure for an indigenous arms industry. The results of these efforts were seen in the expansion of the Pakistan Ordnance Factories, the setting up of a tank rebuild factory at Wah, the establishment of an aeronautical complex at Kamra and an aircraft assembly plant under licence from Sweden, besides several other projects with the assistance of friendly countries, especially China, France and Turkey. The testing of the two types of guided missiles and rocket launchers and the plans for the production of tanks and jet aircraft seems to indicate a forward stage in the process aimed at progressively achieving self-sufficiency in arms manufacture.

However, it must be understood that a full-scale defence industry is not within easy reach of a Third World country like Pakistan, especially when weapons systems are known to become obsolete in a matter of years. Resource constraints, the absence of a sound industrial infrastructure, a narrow scientific and technological base and negligible spending on R&D [research and development] inhibit any plans for a rapid development of defence production. Yet, given Pakistan's defence imperatives, we have no choice but to develop an arms industry, relying on our own resources but where possible in cooperation with friendly countries.

Given the Muslim world's technological backwardness joint defence ventures are difficult, though not impossible. At least two other Muslim countries—Egypt and Turkey—have a relatively high level of industry and technology, and Iran, too, has shown some ingenuity in defence production during the Gulf war. Given the common perception these countries have of several international problems, it is but natural that these countries should come closer to each other in such a vital field as defence production.

Pakistan could play a major role in setting up joint defence ventures. But our neglect of science and technology has cost us dearly. Even though Pakistan has produced a few scientists of international repute, the output of scientists and engineers in our educational and training institutes is far below our minimum requirements. Besides, a big chunk of the scientific talent leaves the country in search of better professional opportunities elsewhere. This great shortcoming in our educational system must be rectified if we want to ensure a regular supply of trained scientific manpower for our national development efforts, including defence.

Sri Lanka

10 People Killed in Separate Incidents 22 Feb

BK2302104689 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0941 GMT 23 Feb 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 23 (LANKAPUVATH)—Ten people, including three children and three security guards were killed in separate incidents yesterday in Sri Lanka's Southern and Eastern Provinces. Police told LANKAPUVATH that three security guards deployed at the residence of Peter Jayasekara, southern provincial councillor, were killed when an armed gang hurled bombs and fired at the councillor's house at Elpitiya, Galle, yesterday.

The sources said the councillor was not at his home at the time of the attack.

In Hambantota's Walasmulla area, unidentified gunmen shot dead Hgananda at 2130 hours (local time) yesterday.

T. P. Chandraratne (40) was stabbed to death by an armed gang of 10 persons clad in army type uniforms in Nimalawa, Akuressa, yesterday.

M.L. Dias of Galawela, Weligama, was hacked to death by an unidentified armed gang at 2230 hours (local time) yesterday.

Meanwhile, a report from Trincomalee in the east state that three children and a middle aged woman were killed last night by LTTE terrorists at Welioya.